

IRAN NEWS

Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad as-Sahaf Visited Jordan's King Hussein in Amman, Dec. 6, on His Way to the OIC Conference in Jakarta Which Begins Tomorrow
Page 15

Iranian Film Center Plans Ambitious Initiatives to Gain Footholds in World Film Markets
Page 10

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Sunday December 8, 1996, Azar 18, 1375, Rajab 26, 1417

Taliban Try to Assassinate Rabbani

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - An abortive bid to assassinate Afghan President Burhamuddin Rabbani by the Taliban was reported yesterday.

An informed source talking to IRAN NEWS said, "Tajik Islamic opposition leader Abdullah Nouri heading an 8-member delegation was on his way from Mashhad to Shindan, western Afghanistan. But his plane was forced to land."

Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Gerd Marrem was accompanying Nouri on the plane.

The Taliban thought that the plane was flying Rabbani who was here for talks with Iranian officials.

The source told IRAN NEWS that he was sure that the Taliban mistakenly thought the plane was carrying Rabbani and planned to assassinate him after forcing it to land.

"But," he said, "this time too the Taliban failed in their bid to assassinate the Afghan president."

What do you mean by 'this time too'?



RABBANI

"Well, the Taliban made similar attempts in the past to kill President Rabbani and once even tried to eliminate a delegation from the Islamic Republic," he responded.

"You remember what happened to Wehdat Islami Party leader Abdul Ali Mazari," he recalled and said, some 18 months ago, the same Taliban murdered Mazari after capturing him.

Abdullah Nouri was on his way to Kunduz for informal talks with Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov when his plane was forced to land in Shindan by the Taliban.

IRI Respects Territorial Integrity of Neighbors, Giunashvili



GIUNASHVILI

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Dr. Jemshid Giunashvili, Georgia's ambassador to Tehran, in a recent interview with IRAN NEWS discussed his country's domestic and foreign policies. Following is the complete text of the interview:

Question: Why have the mass media recently increased their

coverage of Georgia?

Answer: I believe this is mainly due to the positive political, social, and economic life of Georgia especially over the past 15 to 20 months. Judge for yourself. Over this period, we disarmed illicitly armed groups, ratified the new Constitution, held democratic parliamentary and presidential elections, formulated laws for enhanced private sector activities and supported investments, circulated the national currency or Lari whose value has remained stable over a year. Each U.S. dollar is equal to 1.25 to 1.27 Lari. All these achievements are due to sound leadership, devoted efforts of the people, assistance of neighbors, banks, European and global organizations. Under such conditions, Georgia's traditional role as a bridge linking the East and the West and the North and the South

IRAN NEWS ON INTERNET
IRAN NEWS is now available on the Internet at the following address:
<http://netiran.com/news/IranNews/current.html>

Belgrade Set for More Protests

BELGRADE (AFP) - Washington was stepping up pressure on Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to accept elections won by the opposition as both sides in Serbia seemed to be looking for a way to end the crisis.

Over 100,000 people attended an 18th day of protest on Friday over the authorities' refusal to accept the results of local elections, which saw the opposition Together coalition making sweeping gains, winning 15 out of 18 cities and towns.

Yesterday, one of the coalition's leaders seemed to be offering the Serbian president, who has kept a low profile since the protests started, a way out without losing face.

"We must not overestimate Milosevic's responsibility," Dusan Mihajlovic, leader of New Democracy, one of the parties in the coalition, said in an interview with the daily Dnevni Telegraph.

"The greatest responsibility lies with the Socialist organizations in Belgrade. I know for a fact that officials in these organizations did all they could to transform their defeat into a victory ... and that Milosevic had nothing to do with it," he said.

However, he added that the will of the electorate must be respected, and another opposition spokesman warned "We don't want to fall into Slobodan Milosevic's usual snares."

Serbia has been under intense international pressure to back down, and Washington Friday stepped up its efforts to persuade the authorities to respect the election results.

In a letter, U.S. President Bill Clinton announced he had decided to extend for a year a freeze on the financial assets on U.S. soil of the governments of Serbia, Montenegro and the Bosnian Serb entity.

PG Summit Begins Without Bahrain

DOHA, QATAR (AFP) - Bahrain staged an unprecedented boycott of the summit of Persian Gulf Arab states which opened in the Qatari capital yesterday.

While leaders from Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates took their seats at the conference table, Bahrain's chair remained empty.

Bahrain said it would boycott the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council ((PGCC) summit to protest host country Qatar's handling of their dispute over the Hawar Islands in the Persian Gulf.

The Bahraini Foreign Ministry said here it had rejected Persian Gulf efforts to persuade it to attend the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council ((PGCC) summit.

Bahrain mainly objects to Qatar's decision to take the island dispute to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague, even though Bahrain believes the problem should be resolved within the (PGCC), the ministry added.

Manama accuses Qatar of prof-

iting from the 1990 (PGCC) summit in Doha to force Bahrain to accept a resolution calling for the dispute over the Hawar Islands area to be taken to the ICJ.

Bahrain, which controls the area believed to be rich in oil and gas, believes Qatar's claim to them is "equivalent to claiming one-third of Bahrain's surface area," the ministry said.

The ministry also outlined its complaints toward Qatar since 1986 when between 100 and 150 Qatari soldiers landed on Fasht al-Dibel near the Hawar to stop construction on a Bahraini border

post.

Qatar withdrew after Saudi mediation.

The ministry also condemned "media campaigns targeting Bahrain," including the broadcast of interviews with Bahraini opposition members on Qatar's state-run television at the beginning of the year.

"The state of Qatar has even gone as far as recruiting elements to spy on Bahrain," the statement said, alluding to Monday's announcement that two Qataris have been arrested on spying charges.

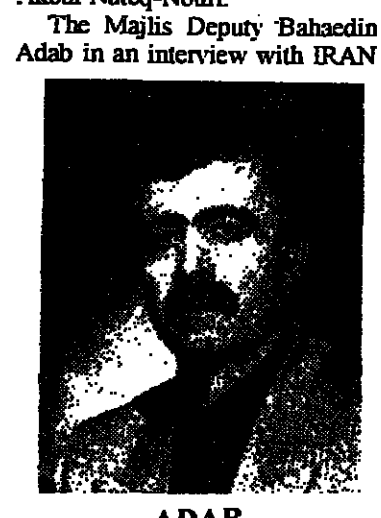
U.A.E. Come back from 2-0 Down to Beat Kuwait

ABU DHABI, U.A.E. (Reuters) - The United Arab Emirates came from 2-0 down at halftime to beat Kuwait 3-2 in the Asian Cup yesterday.

Jassem al Huwaidi silenced the all-male home crowd of 15,000 by giving Kuwait the lead in the ninth minute after being put through by Bashar Abdulaziz's header.

The U.A.E. players were booed off at halftime, Huwaidi having scored his second goal in the 44th minute. He tapped the ball in after Hani al-Sager's header from a corner had hit the post and rebounded to him.

But the boos turned to cheers in the 53rd minute when Hassan



ADAB

NEWS said, "I personally support Mr. Nateq-Nouri's candidacy for the next presidency."

Adab, Majlis representative from Sanandaj, Kurdistan Prov-

ince, paid glowing tribute to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and said, "I wish he could be the president for one more term."

"I have great respect for Mr. Rafsanjani," Adab said.

"It could have been the best if our Constitution would allow Mr. Rafsanjani to run for one more term," Adab, 51, said.

Do you favor amending the Constitution to allow Rafsanjani to remain in the presidency for one more term?

"No," he said, "with due respect to Mr. Rafsanjani, amending the Constitution will not be feasible."

There are two different opinions in Iran. Some believe that Rafsanjani should remain in office for one more term. They argue that Rafsanjani has launched comprehensive development projects and should be given the opportunity to supervise their implementation.

A lot of people, particularly in the executive branch of the gov-

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FELICITATIONS
Monday, the 27th of Rajab (December 9), is the anniversary of the day the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) was called to his divine mission as the last messenger of God. IRAN NEWS management and staff wish to congratulate the Muslim world on this auspicious occasion.

Congratulations to the Supreme Leader and the esteemed people of our country on the anniversary of Mab' ath
On this blessed occasion, and with the partnership of Ministry of Roads and Transportation and Mustazafan and Janbazan Foundation, the distinguished President Hashemi Rafsanjani will inaugurate the enormous project for constructing Tehran-North of Iran Freeway.
The Association for the Inauguration Ceremony of Tehran-North of Iran Freeway

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EDITORIAL

To Eradicate Poverty We Must First Define It Properly

The Cabinet last week approved a bill that, after ratification by the Parliament, will give assistance to families with a monthly income of less than 185,000 rials.

To discuss poverty, we should keep in mind that the main reason for the continuation of social class difference (class struggle) in our country is the existence of more than 850,000 family units currently living under the poverty line (1373 census).

Despite the relative growth in industry and production after the Iraqi-imposed war, the very low-income families failed to improve their economic conditions because the nation's industrial and economic policies gave priority to investment in trade and services sectors rather than to industrial production and growth as a whole.

So, if we hope and expect to help the poverty-stricken families by implementing this proposed bill, we should use the lessons we have learned from our previous policies and mistakes which in most part caused poverty among the economically-vulnerable sections of our society.

The current definition of poverty is an unrealistic one. The proposed bill assumes that families earning less than 185,000 rials per month are below poverty line, but as we all know this income is not nearly enough for a family even in the remotest rural areas.

We must define poverty in realistic terms and consider inflation and the basic needs of families such as clothing, food, shelter and education when calculating family purchasing power.

The Second Development Plan has set aside 28,477 billion rials in credits for eradication of poverty which, considering the massive scale of poverty, does not seem realistic. The Cabinet's proposed bill also contains provisions for various subsidies, social security, low-cost loans and inexpensive plots of land for the economically-handicapped. But none of these plans will work unless we base them on true and realistic definitions and descriptions of poverty, poverty line, and poverty-stricken.

In proposing this bill, the Cabinet failed to fully consider unemployment, one of the main factors contributing to poverty on a mass scale.

According to the current definition, only out of work family heads and other individuals seeking employment are considered unemployed, whereas, a more accurate definition should include unproductive workers such as disgruntled office workers with very low productivity and middlemen (with no productivity) in the ranks of the unemployed.

Our sincere hope is that the task of eradicating poverty will be handled without resorting to popular slogans, and be judged only on its practical merits rather than political convenience. We also hope that the aforementioned bill will help the Cabinet achieve this lofty objective.

Professor Manuchehr Bozorgmehr Memorial



BOZORGMEHR

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - A memorial gathering of scholars and writers was held on Wednesday, December 4, on the 10th anniversary of the demise of Manuchehr Bozorgmehr, the well-known translator of philosophical books.

A great number of scholars as well as students of literature and philosophy attended the gathering in which the works of the late Bozorgmehr were evaluated.

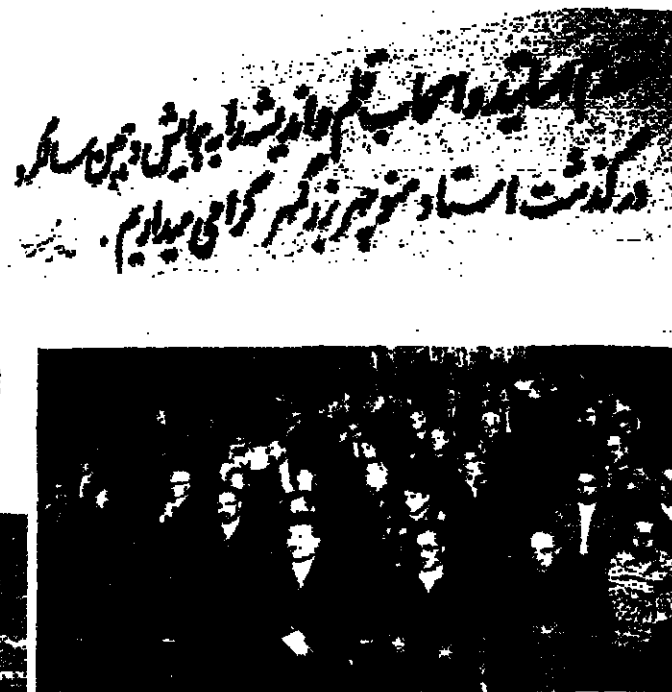
Dr. Ezzatollah Fuladvand, Dr.

Zia Movahhed and Dr. Gholamali Haddad Adel were the speakers, and the topics of their speeches were 'Bozorgmehr and Modern Philosophy in Iran,' 'Bozorgmehr

and Translation of Analytical Philosophical Works,' and 'Bozorgmehr's Scholarly Status' respectively.

Channel Two of IRIB is report-

edly preparing a series of programs on the lives of eminent Iranian writers, and one of the first programs will cover the life and works of Manuchehr Bozorgmehr.



Velayati in Jakarta for OIC Meeting

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, heading a delegation, left here yesterday for Jakarta, Indonesia, to attend the 24th foreign ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Issues related to the world of Islam in political, economic and cultural areas will be discussed by the OIC foreign ministers.

An expert meeting of the OIC in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, last month prepared the agenda of the ministerial meeting, IRNA reported.

Son Confirms Cleric's Death for Cardiac Arrest

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - The death through cardiac arrest of an Iranian Kurdish cleric in Kermanshah this week, which "miscreants" had tried to exploit as a means of disturbing civic peace, has been confirmed by the state physicians and local clerics, IRNA reported on Friday.

The funeral ceremony of Mullah Mohammad Rabii, the prayer leader of the Shafei Mosque of Kermanshah and a retired employee of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), had led to skirmishes between two groups of people.

Mullah Rabii's son, in an interview with IRIB on Friday confirmed that his father was having health problems and that "his death was due to a heart attack."

He refuted the rumors that his 64-year old father had been murdered.

Mullah Rabii died of a heart attack and according to eyewitness accounts, his body was found in his car by the roadside.

"When miscreants took to rioting after the Mullah's death, they were confronted by the local people," IRNA reported.

In the city of Paveh yesterday, Friday prayer leader Mullah Qader Qaderi also ruled out any foul play in the death of Mullah Rabii.

In nearby Javan-Roud, Friday prayer leader Mullah Ahmad Fakhr-i urged the people not to heed the "rumors of the enemies of the Islamic Republic," and said that Mullah Rabii had died a natural death.

Iran Protests Attack on Shia Cleric in Iraq

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Iran has formally protested to Iraq over an attack on the house of Grand Ayatollah Sistani, an important figure in Iraq's Shia Muslim community, it was reported yesterday.

The Foreign Ministry summoned Iraq's representative in Tehran to express Iran's "deep concern" about last month's attack on Ayatollah Sistani's house in the holy city of Najaf, south of Baghdad.

"This attack caused deep concern among the Muslims of the world, notably in Iran," said a Foreign Ministry statement carried by newspapers here.

The ministry had also urged Iraq to pursue the investigation into the attack and to find those responsible.

According to the Iraqi Shia opposition based in Iran, three armed men burst into the ayatollah's house and shot at his son. They said a servant was killed, and another wounded in the attack on November 25.

Iraqi Shias, living in both Iran and Iraq, consider themselves disciples of Ayatollah Sistani who originally comes from Iran.

Iran Reports Cases of Violations by U.S. to U.N. Chief

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador and permanent representative to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi reported cases of violations of the Iranian territory by the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region.

In a letter to the U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali which was circulated as a document of the Security Council on Friday, Kharrazi said that the complaints of the interest section of Iran in Washington D.C. have been submitted to the Embassy of Pakistan.

See Page 15

Malaysian Ambassador Meets Majlis Speaker



TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker (R) receives Malaysian ambassador (L).

(Photo by Hatami)

IRAN NEWS PARLIAMENTARY DESK
TEHRAN - The Malaysian Ambassador to Tehran Mohd Khalis bin Ali Hassan met the Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri here yesterday.

Pointing to the exchange of delegations between the two countries, and also the various commonalities between their leaders, the Malaysian diplomat expressed hope that the future relations will

become more active in the fields of economy and trade.

The Majlis Speaker also praised the policy of Malaysia in the international organizations.

Nateq-Nouri noted that, today, the regional and international situation requires the two countries to improve their cooperation in all areas, because the next century belongs to Asia. But he added

that, the West doesn't accept this and doesn't want to let this region to have a powerful and bright future. To this end, the Speaker stated that, the West creates intimidation and disappointment to pretend that its presence in the region is required.

The Majlis Speaker invited his Malaysian counterpart to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran.

کتابخانه

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IRAN DOMESTIC NEWS

RAVI WRITES

Ambassador Koistinen Hosts Reception on Finnish Independence Day

Finnish Ambassador Antti Koistinen on Wednesday hosted a reception to mark his country's Independence Day in 1917. The Scandinavian country was annexed by Russia in 1809, but in 1920 the then Soviet Union acknowledged Finnish independence.

Last week was a lucky week for the Fins as they heard about two major developments which will further boost their country's economy.



(From left) Al-Hassan, Koistinen, Shijie



(From left) Bylund, Laitinen, Nedialko

Royal Caribbean Cruiser of Miami, Florida, one of the world's leading cruise lines has awarded the Finnish company Kavaerner Masa-Yard of Turku a billion-dollar contract to build two luxury cruise ships.

Another good news for Finland was a contract the Finnish company, Valmet, signed with Thailand to establish a technology center in Laem Chabang near Bangkok.

The two news coincided with the Independence Day celebrations in Helsinki. In a recent statement Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, indicated that his country's armed forces who are nonaligned will play a more constructive role for the peace in the future.

In Tehran senior Foreign Ministry officials, foreign diplomats including their dean, Syrian Ambassador Ahmad al-Hassan, went to greet Ambassador Koistinen who recently arrived to assume his post as top diplomat of his country. Koistinen replaced Ambassador Eero Saarikoski.

Another newcomer was Canadian Ambassador Michel de Salaberry who replaced Ambassador Donald P. McLennan.

Qatar's Ambassador Ali Abdul Aziz al-Kwari, Palestinian Ambassador Salah Zawawi, Philippine Ambassador Haron P. Alonte and Tunisian Ambassador Mohamed Saad huddled in a corner and were busy in tete-a-tete.

Pakistan Ambassador Khalid Mahmood and Brig. Mohammed Saleem were there at the reception of Finnish Ambassador Koistinen who has been posted in Moscow, New Delhi and Rabat before coming to Tehran. He also served as Finland's roving ambassador in Central Asia.

We met with Finnish Engineer Jari Laitinen of Nokia Telecom. He told us that he came to Iran three months ago and his company is busy building a mobile phone network.

South Korea Embassy's Kang Do Ho was there talking about his country's Minister of Trade and Industry Park Jae Yoon's visit which he said was 'successful.'

Bulgarian Embassy Counselor Nedialko Nedialkov was there with his daughter Daffina who studies at the Russian School in Tehran. She is happy here in Tehran and wants to write articles on his country's affairs.

We met with Czech Republic Charge d'Affaires Jiri Dolezal and Croatian Embassy's Zeljko Kupresak.

Swedish Tommy Bylund attracted the attention of most of the guests. He was wearing Swedish traditional dress. He told us that he was in Tehran because of his wife who works with the Swedish Embassy.

"My wife works with the embassy and I look after the kids," Bylund told us.

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President Calls for Training Efficient, Talented Work Force

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here yesterday that education and science are the most important factor in promoting human communities and a society lacking efficient and talented work force is of a loose foundation prone to collapse.

Addressing a ceremony to mark the 10th anniversary of establishment of the Faculty of Information, he said the capability to accurately analyze different subjects in routine decision-making, foresight and full understanding of the political and

economic issues are vital for the workers of Information (Intelligence) Ministry, IRNA reported.

"Commitment along with knowledge, efficiency and full understanding of the political streams and economic issues would serve to deepen the activities of the Information Ministry and attract popular confidence in the ministry," he said.

Before the President's remarks, Minister of Information Ali Fallahian briefed him on the education curricula of the faculty and the progress made in the past ten years.

Islamic Azad University to Establish New Educational Programs

BY MOJGAN TAVASOLI

TEHRAN - The Islamic Azad University intends to recruit at least 11,000 more faculty members by the end of the Second Development Plan, Dr. Karim Zare told IRAN NEWS here yesterday.

Vice Chancellor of the Islamic Azad University in Educational Affairs, Zare said, "Right now, we have 10,000 full-time and 10,000 part-time faculty members. We intend to offer scholarships and employ holders of M.A.s and Ph.D.s in view of the increasing number of our students."

Zare, who represented the people of Shiraz at the fourth term of the Majlis (Parliament), noted, "We want to create the educational programs needed by the country, such as carpet engineering, pharmaceutical herbs, etc."

"We are also trying to find suit-



ZARE

able jobs for our graduates. We should strive to train conscientious individuals so that in place of exporting simple workers we would export engineers to the world," he added.

He called for rectification of the higher education system in Iran.

See Page 13

Kharrazi Addresses Energy Conference



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the U.N., Kamal Kharrazi, in United Nations, on Friday said that Iran is the bridge

between the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf as well as east of Mediterranean Sea and the Indian subcontinent.

Addressing the 'Dresdner Kleinwort Benson' Energy Conference, he added that Iran naturally is a part of or partner in any political development in Central Asia, Caucasus, southern Russia, east of the Arab world, the Persian Gulf and Southeast Asia.

Commenting on Iran's huge natural resources and its political stability, he noted that the Islamic Republic has made great efforts in the mediation between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Tajik crisis and conflicting Afghan groups.

See Page 13

Clandestine Immigration Ring Uncovered in Canada

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canadian authorities assisted by their Dutch counterparts have uncovered an illegal immigration network that smuggled Iranian and Iraqi nationals into Canada, police announced Friday.

Police said 4,000 to 5,000 Iranians and Iraqis entered Canada illegally, via the Netherlands, in recent years.

The ring was uncovered following a tip-off from Dutch government officials who said at least 5,000 people had paid about \$10,000 (\$7,400 U.S.) to get into Canada. They were given plane tickets and false passports and, once in Canada, requested refugee status.

LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN

SURA 59, THE GATHERING (AL-HASHR)

In the Name of God, The Beneficent, the Merciful

17. Therefore they both shall end in Hell. Therein for long to dwell. And that's the wrong-doers' reward!

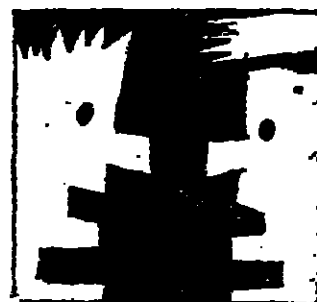
*The 31th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form from: RASA Publication Tel. 893 4844-5

(F.N.)

PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Zohr)	11:57
Evening (Maghreb)	17:13
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:24
Tomorrow's Sunrise	07:02

TETE-A-TETE



A Genuine Case of H.R. Violation!

"Sir, international reports say: Iran has dismissed a U.N. committee's criticism of its human rights record and threatened to stop cooperating with a U.N. envoy."

"That's a great, long-awaited, good news!"

"They also say: the U.N. committee condemned a high number of executions in Iran —"

"Well, actually, why don't we give a *fin* passage to those international, hard-core, criminal, drugs smugglers? After all, they only transfer their spiritual stuff to Europe and America; we could even levy taxes on them, rather than executing them!"

"Hm. That's an ideal! But, the committee is also worried about restrictions on freedom of expression and discriminating against women —"

"I see, there we can't unfortunately oblige, I mean, freedom of obscene, pornographic, immoral, satanic expressions are banned by law, and we don't wish to let our intelligent, revolutionary, Muslim women change into cheap, sex objects and commercial, second-class citizens as in the U.S.A. and some *any* for countries in Europe!"

"So, what do you think will happen now; shall another envoy come to Iran?"

"I hope so!"

"What! I thought you were always against that."

"Yes, but this time I intend to personally kick the envoy in the belly, if not lower! I want him to go back and, for the first time, report a *genuine* case of human rights violation in the Islamic Republic!"

ABU SINA

Council of Female Islamic Parliamentarians Begins Session

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The first meeting of the Central Council of Female Deputies of Islamic Countries started its work here yesterday.

At the opening ceremonies of the three-day meeting, Dr. Larijani deputy head of the Majlis Foreign Policy Commission expressed hope that the council will become a strong arm of the Inter-Parliamentary Union of Islamic countries.

Pointing to the comparative status of women in Islamic communities and in the West, Larijani said achievements of women in the West notwithstanding, woman's function in Western civil structure is not agreeable to Islamic intellect.

Larijani added: "In order for women to achieve their rightful position in Islamic countries, a sound foundation on the basis of

Islamic intellect is needed."

Calling Iran's experience in women's issues an important achievement, he said Iran's experience in this regard consists of three basic factors: expanded education, suitable laws guaranteeing women's rights, and public awareness of those rights.

Larijani suggested that Iran's experience be used as a model for

a movement for women in Islamic communities.

He told the participants that female parliamentary deputies of Islamic countries should give due consideration to combating cultural invasion and distorted information in the course of their work.

Mrs. Nobakht, a member of Parliament, said approving rules and

See Page 13

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Iran Calls on Asia Oil Buyers to Drop Trade Blocks



AQAZADEH

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh called on Asian oil importers yesterday to dismantle trade barriers to help meet booming energy demand.

Addressing an international energy conference in Goa, India, he also warned against politically-motivated energy projects and criticized oil derivatives' trade.

"Asia should strive to eliminate trade barriers with the Persian Gulf in the energy and other sectors," Aqazadeh said.

India, hosting the producer-consumer gathering, has one of the region's biggest energy bills and some of the heaviest import tariffs.

"Countries such as Japan, China, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, India, Pakistan, Thailand should note that they may enjoy security of supply of the Persian Gulf if they provide us with security of demand," the minister said, according to a faxed statement from the Oil Ministry here.

"Only our (Middle East) reserves are sufficient for their increasing energy needs."

He also called on Asian energy companies to avoid "politically oriented" projects by "creating equal conditions for all producers of oil and gas to develop their resources irrespective of political factors, he said.

See Page 13

Iran in Talks for Bankrupt German Machine Firm

BONN, GERMANY (AP) - Iran has said it might buy a former flagship of East German industry, a machine-building company that declared bankruptcy in October, according to German officials.

Wolf Schoede, a spokesman of the federal agency in charge of finding buyers for Eastern German firms, said late Thursday that Iranian officials had voiced interest in possibly taking over the Sket works in Magdeburg.

Iran has rolling mills built by Sket, so "the Iranians presumably are interested in securing Sket's know-how and experience," Schoede told MDR public radio.

Saxony-Anhalt State Economics Minister Klaus Schucht told the station he had "absolutely non-committal" talks with Iranian representatives.

Sket's work force of 32,000 in Communist times has been cut to 1,050 in an attempt to keep it going

amid the post-unification collapse of East German industry.

Plans by the privatization agency call for restructuring the company and further slashing the work force to 425.

In East German times, the company was called Schweremaschinenkombinat Ernst Thaelmann, after a German Communist leader executed by the Nazis.

See Page 13

Majlis Deputies Inspect Ahwaz Steel Industries

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - Members of Mines and Industries Commission of the Majlis visited Ahwaz Steel Industries last Thursday and familiarized with steel industries and its problems.

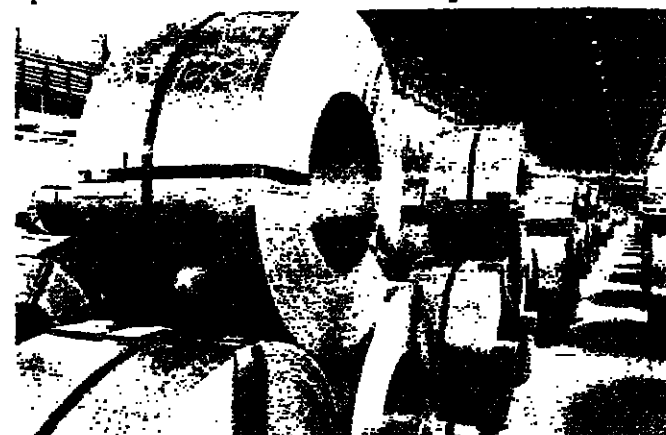
Ahwaz Steel Company consists of several sections such as melting and steel roll which operated separately until 1994 but since then have merged.

The company manufactures 1,700,000 tons of various products and will increase its production with implementation of the "balance plan" in which new sections will be added and some sections modernized in regard to technology.

Briefing the visiting MPs, Ali Palizdar, director general of the company said the products of the company would reach four million tons annually by the year 2000 and fetch the country 4,000 billion rials in sale of products as of 2001.

pipe-construction.

The visitors included Seyed Hussein Hashemi, chairman of the Mines and Industries Commission; Hussein Dana, vice chairman of the commission; Ali Asghar Yusof-Nejad; Vartan Vartanian;



He added implementation of the "balance plan" depends on support of the banking system in providing necessary credits to the steel industries.

In steel roll section, a plan for production of thick rolls with various width up to 4.5 meters, is under study. These rolls are used for refineries, ship construction and

Sohrab Bohuli Qashqaie; Seyed Taher Taheri; Mohsen Khadeb Arab Baqi and Abdolreza Sepahvand.

During the Iraqi imposed war the enemy launched many attacks on the company but it resumed its operation thanks to the efforts of Iranian experts.

1,374 Tons of Non-Oil Goods Exported

KHORAMABAD, LORESTAN PROVINCE (IRNA) - Some 1,374 tons of various kinds of non-oil products worth \$2.462 million were exported from this western province during the first half of the current Iranian year (March 20-September 21, 1996), it was announced here yesterday.

Gholamreza Darzei, head of the provincial Customs Office, added that textile, dried fruits, garlic, apples, noodles, tiles, and pickled hide were major items exported to Italy, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey and Central Asian states.

Iran, Qatar Review Cooperation in Energy Fields

ABU DHABI, U.A.E (IRNA) - Iran and Qatar studied cooperation in agriculture and municipal affairs in a meeting in Doha on Wednesday between Iranian Ambassador Mahmoud Movahhedi and Qatar's minister of agriculture and municipal affairs, Ali bin Saeed al-Khayyarin.

Iranian ambassador also had a meeting with Qatar's minister of energy and industry, Abdullah bin

Hamad al-Oteifa, and invited the latter to attend the oil and gas meeting of oil-producing countries to be held in Isfahan in April 1997.

Movahhedi also met Qatar's acting minister of water and electricity on Wednesday, and invited him to visit the exhibition on water and electricity equipment to be held in Tehran.

The Great Leader:

Iran Must Be Turned into a Perfect Model of a Developed, Proud and Modern Society



MOSTAZAFAN AND JANBAZAN FOUNDATION OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION.

Construction of Tehran-North Freeway An Image of Capabilities by the Islamic Nation's Experts



MINISTRY OF ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Coinciding with the auspicious day of the Appointment to Prophecy of the last messenger, Mohammad Mostafa (A.S.), and by the capable hand of the leader of construction Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, the construction operations of Tehran-North Freeway will commence.

Tehran-North Freeway is one of the nation's most important projects regarding vital road links, whose studies have been conducted by the Ministry of Roads and Transportation and Iranian Consulting Engineers and will be implemented in association with the Islamic Revolution's Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation.

Tehran-North Freeway has been designed as a, tourist, economic and transit road for completely connecting the

country's central region and Tehran Province with the Caspian Sea's south

Along its path are a total of 40 twin tunnels from 100 to 1850 meters long.

ern shores. This Freeway which has two lanes going and two returning on each side will have an extra lane for heavy traffic if needed.

The road's total length is 121 km starting from the west side of the Kan River at the western end of Tehran's belt road and at the intersection of 76m North Abbas Abad Rd.

The road's path continues along the Kan Valley, and after passing by Soloqan village goes by the southern part of the Tochal Mountain, then passing through this mountain by a long tunnel continues on its northern slope in the Doab Shahrastanak region.

This path passes through the Kan davan Mountain with tunnels 4850 meters long from the Karaj River corridor to

the Gachsar and Kandavan region. Then the path falls on the Chaloos River corridor and continues all the way to reach the beginning of the city of Chaloos and link with the Chaloos-Noshahr and Chaloos-Tonekabon east-west belt roads.

Other than the numerous tourist and resort areas along the Freeway, it will also facilitate the access to Shahrastanak region, and then the city of Marzan Abad and the neighboring areas.

Along its path, there are a total of 40 twin tunnels from 100 to 4850 meters long. The total length of all these tunnels on each side of the road is 27 Km.

There will be 10 large bridges across the great creeks on the path totaling 1650 meters and there are also plans for 6 elevated intersections for entering and exiting the Freeway. The Freeway's

The Freeway's total length is 121 km starting from the west side of Kan River in west Tehran.

maximum and minimum altitudes are 2490 and 50 meters above sea level respectively.

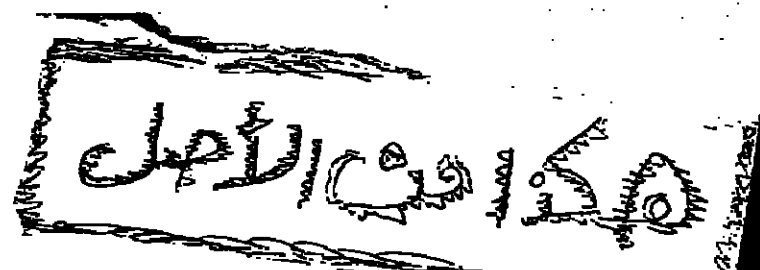
The speed limit on the Freeway is 120 km/h. on flat parts, 100 km/h on sloped and 80 km/h in mountainous regions.

The speed limit on the Freeway is 120 km/h on flat parts, 100 km/h on sloped and 80 km/h in mountainous regions.

The average length of time spent by a light vehicle from Tehran to the end of the road is one hour and thirty two minutes.

The project's importance, great value and technical points caused it to be divided up into 24 parts and by giving each part to a separate contractor, this great national project is hoped to be completed as soon as possible.

Headquarters for Holding Tehran-North Freeway Construction Ceremony



IRAN

WORLD NEWS

of nature. Acupuncture restores the imbalance and diseases are miraculously cured.

A 1,000 acupuncture points exist on the body and it is by placing needles on some of these points that provide the cure. Acupuncture is even endorsed by WHO, who recommend the treatment in a wide range of ailments from common colds to backache and frozen shoulder.

Tehran is trying to attract international investment in its upstream oil and gas sector in the face of a U.S. trade ban and legislation aimed at punishing non-U.S. companies which invest in Iranian projects.

Malaysian oil company Petrobras has come under criticism from Washington for signing an agreement with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) for an oil field development.

Aqazadeh also said "misled hedging and other financial instruments" had proved harmful to oil producers in recent years.

"No one disputes the role of markets, provided they are truly free," he said.

Sket declared bankruptcy Oct. 15, a day after visiting German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the firm should be saved.

Iranian minister of mines and metals, Hussein Mahloutji was meeting German economics minister, Guenther Rexrodt, in Bonn on Friday, Economics Ministry of officials said.

But they denied a German newspaper report that Sket would be discussed.

Kharrazi further underlined that a sense of denial, a tone of rejection and a plan to contain Iran, is a challenge and detrimental to peace and security of the region.

On the motives behind the U.S. containment and sanctions, he stressed that there exists a military industry which has lost its lucrative business after the end of the Cold War and attempts to create a new Cold War environment if not at an international scale, at least at a regional level.

And a strong statement from the State Department urged Milosevic to reverse the decision to partially cancel the results of the polls.

"The United States believes that the Milosevic government should now take the step of reversing its decision. It should now take a solid step of respecting the municipal elections of November 17," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"The Serbian government should initiate an open dialogue with the opposition in Serbia," he said.

Ahmed rose well above his marker to head home a cross by

Adel Hussain.

Two minutes later the U.A.E. were level, Adnan al Talyani heading in a corner from the right by Mohamed Mohamed.

Kuwait's misery was complete 10 minutes from time when mid-fielder Bakht Saad ran on to a delightful pass from substitute Zuhair Bakht to hammer home a left-foot shot from 10 meters.

The win puts the U.A.E. in a commanding position to qualify for the quarter-finals.

Meanwhile, South Korea beat Indonesia 4-2.

According to an IRNA report from New York, in the first case, an Iranian helicopter belonging to the Ministry of Oil, whose mission was to transport the ministry's employees from Kharg Island to Forouzan Oil Platform, was forced to return on August 13, 1996 owing to the warnings of the U.S. forces and their military exercise north of Forouzan Oil Platform.

Meanwhile, on July 29, 1996, the U.S. flotillas jammed the system over an Iranian patrolling unit, he said, adding a U.S. F-16 aircraft has also, on a number of occasions, flown over an Iranian patrolling flotilla.

regulations for the organization is an important goal of the meeting.

She added: "On the basis of the proposed agenda of the secretariat of the council, we shall discuss rules and regulations which will govern the council and its activities.

According to the council's articles of association, all Islamic countries are eligible for membership.

"For every engineer, we should have five holders of associate diplomas. We should try to motivate the people to get associate diplomas."

The government (especially the next one) and the Majlis should take steps to increase graduate and post graduate programs, he stressed.

Zare noted, "We intend to Islamize the universities, and the university instructors are the pillars of this move, since good and experienced professors and managers will direct the university toward qualitative goals and enforcement of Islamic decrees."

He said the University's chancellor has issued "a decisive directive" for Islamization of the university.

On the number of students studying at the University, he said, "The students are today studying at 130 university units in 126 cities in Iran and in countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon. We have around 550,000 students while so far 350,000 people have graduated from the university. By the end of this year, 50,000 other students will graduate as well."

He said more than 700 foreign students at home and abroad are studying at the university and noted that studies are underway for the set up of Islamic Azad University in Tajikistan, Zangbar, and Dar al-Islam.

The Islamic Azad University was set up in 1362 in 12 units with a 10 million rial budget of Imam Khomeini (R.A.). At first, it enrolled 3,000 students.

is restored. We are a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and are now interested in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Q: How do you see Georgia's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran?

A: The two countries' ties are cordial. Over the past three years, their presidents have made exchange visits. Also high ranking and specialized delegations traveled from one country to the other. The relevant documents have been signed and now the legal ground has been paved for cooperation. Serious practical cooperation has commenced in the economic, commercial, transportation, transit, cultural and academic fields. Gradually, bilateral and quadrilateral ties are to complement bilateral relations. As you know a quadrilateral meeting of the deputy foreign ministers of Iran, America, Greece and Georgia took place in Tehran 3-4 December. But still this is not sufficient for both sides, as they have more potential and facilities.

Q: Why aren't the existing facilities and potentials used?

A: Unsuccessful transactions and reservations in cooperation especially in the macro private sector are due to various reasons. I should admit that the Georgian side is also responsible for this condition. But, nonetheless, some of our neighbors have reached some success in this attempt. I believe that the impact of skirmishes such as the plight of Abkhazia serve as the most fundamental reasons why initiative and fruitful activities are missing. These actually incur considerable losses on Georgia's economic and social life.

Q: What is the root of the Georgia - Abkhazia crisis?

A: Mainly, political ploys and instigations. In fact, we did not and could not have ethnic problems with the Abkhaz people. Among people of all different nationalities residing in Georgia, only the Georgians and the Abkhazians are natives. These nationalities have a background of 2,000 years of co-existence and cooperation. We were so intimate that our neighbors considered no difference between the two ethnic groups. During the 9th to 13th centuries A.D., Muslim authors called West Georgia and at times the entire Georgia "Abkhaz". The famous king in the 12th and 13th centuries A.D. was called Queen Tbilisi and Abkhaz Tamar which means the queen of eastern and western Georgia. Over the centuries, there were intermarriages between the Georgians and the Abkhazians. But due to violent Tsarist policies, more than half the Abkhaz people had to migrate to other countries in the 1860s and 1870s. Third party forces always tried to create tension and hostility between the Georgians and the Abkhazians. The war machine of the separatists and some mass media accuse us Georgians of the decline of the Abkhaz culture. According to a 1989 census, Georgia's population amounted to 5,400,000. Out of this figure 70 percent were Georgians and 1.7 percent Abkhazians. In the Autonomous Abkhaz Republic, 40 percent of the population were Georgians, 17 percent Abkhazians, and the rest were representatives of the Armenians, Greek, Russians and others. Under such conditions, Abkhaz junior schools, university, academic institutes, theater, radio, and televi-

sion were engaged in activities. Several dailies and magazines were printed in the Abkhaz language. Leader of the separatists, Mr. Ardzimba, who was working in Moscow and who could not defend his dissertation there obtained his Ph.D. in history from the academic council of the University of Tbilisi. I was present in this session. During the same days, the Director of the Abkhaz Research Institute in Sukhumi (capital of the Autonomous Abkhaz Republic) and member of the Georgian Academy of Sciences Professor Dzidzaria passed away. The board of directors of the Georgian Academy of Sciences appointed Mr. Ardzimba as the director of the said center.

The Abkhaz Research Institute is affiliated to the Georgian Academy of Sciences and includes the following departments: Abkhaz Language Department, Abkhaz Literature and Folklore Department, Abkhaz History Department, Archeology Department, Anthropology and Abkhaz Art History Department, and Economy Department. In 1990, more than 60 senior Abkhaz academicians worked in this institute including ten holders of Ph.D.s and 40 holders of M.A.s. Among the significant research studies published by this institute over the past two decades, reference can be made to "History of the Autonomous Abkhaz Republic" in two volumes, "Literary Abkhaz Grammar", "History of Abkhaz Literature", and "Russian-Abkhazian Dictionary".

Such efforts are possible only when there is good will, brotherly support, and cooperation. Sad events more or less have happened in most newly independent republics. Due to of the reactionary foreign forces and domestic separatists, war and bloodshed emerged in the country. As a result of this, the Georgians who made up more than 40 percent of the population of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia were "cleansed". Due to assassination and disorder, more than 300,000 Georgians, Russians, Armenians, Greek, and even Abkhazians now have to live away from their homes. CIS leaders have time and again voiced their negative outlook toward the aggressive activities of the separatists. In December 1994 and 1996 at the OSCE meeting in Budapest and Lisbon "ethnic cleansing" in Abkhaz was severely criticized. U.N. Security Council Resolutions 937 (July 1994), 1036 (January 1996), and 1065 (July 1996) apply to settling the Abkhaz crisis.

To make their rule legal, the aggressive separatists decided to hold parliamentary elections on November 23. The government of Georgia considered this move against its own authority and territorial integrity. Various international organizations, countries, as well as the Russian Foreign Ministry termed the measure "illegal".

Q: What stance did Iran adopt?

A: The Islamic Republic of Iran respects the territorial integrity of its neighbors and does not interfere in their domestic affairs. Ever since Georgia was officially recognized in December 1991, the Islamic Republic of Iran has stressed the need to respect Georgia's territorial integrity. A while back addressing the Georgian Parliament, Iran's First Vice President Dr. Hassan Habibi once again underscored these principles and, in regard to the elections held by the separatists, remarked that the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the said elections vain and void.

Q: What happened finally?

A: They held the elections. The illegal nature of the elections is evident from the fact that more than half the inhabitants of the Autonomous Abkhaz Republic are living outside Abkhazia due to unbearable conditions of assassination and harassment. In a referendum held for the refugees outside Abkhazia's borders, the voters were to respond to only one question: "Do you approve of the Abkhaz separatists' parliamentary elections before the restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity and the return of the displaced to their homelands?" Only 88 out of a total of 225,352 voters said yes and 224,925 voters said no. This is the true outcome of the selections.

Q: How do you see the future of these problems and the solution to them?

A: Some have predicted a very bad future full of acute confrontations for the Caucasus. As Caucasians who have a 25 century long experience of statesmanship and cooperation among ourselves and with the neighbors, we are confident that through the patience and close cooperation of Caucasians, assistance of friendly countries such as Iran and respect for the interests of the neighboring countries especially Russia we will reach favorable results in the not-too-distant future. Mr. Shevardnadze has proposed "Peaceful Caucasus" on the basis of the principles I have enumerated. I should add that many organizations and countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran have welcomed this initiative. The government of Georgia has resorted to very favorable grounds to settle the Abkhaz crisis: The suppositional Georgian federation system will propose for Abkhazia most authorities such as Constitution, Parliament, government, flag, anthem, etc. with a view to top international standards. Apparently, with the help and collaboration of European and international organizations, assistance of the neighbors, and reliance on healthy Abkhaz forces, this problem would also be solved to bring calm and prosperity to the Abkhaz people and their Georgian brothers and to make the Caucasus stable and peaceful.

eminent, say Rafsanjani's departure would be a great loss for the country.

Others believe that Rafsanjani's development plans have been approved by the government, the lawmakers and other officials, and will be successfully completed regardless of who the next president will be.

However, since the Leader of Islamic Iran, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, gave his opinion on the issue, the controversy over amending the Constitution was ended.

The Leader said, "After the end of Mr. Rafsanjani's mandate, he will be invaluable for other major responsibilities at the service of the country and the Revolution."

Rafsanjani, whose term expires next July, himself said he was opposed to amending the Constitution for the purpose of allowing him to run for a third term.

Adab, echoing Rafsanjani, told IRAN NEWS that changing the Constitution for this purpose is not in the interest of the country.

He said, "I believe that a cleric (alim) should continue to be the president."

Why?

"You know we have had two clerics as president and we have

seen constructive and development plans in our country," Adab said, adding, "The cleric presidents have proved that they do a good job."

Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei was the first Alim to hold the top executive post for two terms before Rafsanjani assumed the presidency in 1990.

"Both the Ulema did a good job," Adab said.

Adab, who is an industrial engineer, refuted the charges leveled by Society for the Defense of the Values of the Islamic Revolution (SDVIR) leader Hojjatoleslam Mohammed Mohammadi Reyslahri regarding IRIB's biases and said, "The Iranian television is not partial."

Adab, married with two daughters and one son, asked, "How is it possible that the television in Iran does not give extensive coverage to the top lawmaker of the Iranian Majlis?"

SDVIR secretary-general in a recent statement accused the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) of bias and partiality.

The SDVIR also claimed that certain official foreign visits covered by the Iranian television were used as publicity for the presidential election, a vague reference to Naeq-Nouri who recently visited several provinces inside the country and made a three-nation foreign trip last month.

IRIB also issued a statement denying SDVIR's allegations.

Contradicting claims of the SDVIR, Adab complained that the Iranian television network did not sufficiently cover Naeq-Nouri's recent visit to Kurdistan.

Adab belongs to the Sunni School of Islam and says, "Those who claim sectarian partiality exists in Iran are wrong."

"To be very frank, we are all Muslims in Iran and believe in one religion, one Quran and one Leader ... and that's all," Adab maintained.

"We Sunnis face no problems in Iran because of our sect," Adab said.

Adab criticized the allocation of the annual budget to his province by the Rafsanjani government.

He singled out the example of his own province and said, "Though the budget for the next Iranian fiscal year has increased, it is still not what we need and expect."

"I, along with 15 other Majlis deputies have written a letter to President Rafsanjani complaining about the budget allocation for some provinces including Kurdistan," Adab said.

"Of course the development budget for Kurdistan has been increased by 20 percent i.e. it has gone up from 80 billion to 100 billion rials," he said.

"They (the authors of the budget) claim that by re-allocating the budget we want to ensure the completion of the development projects which were started earlier," he said.

"I don't agree with them as Kurdistan has been the center of the 1980-88 Iraqi-imposed war and no development projects were launched there and there is no question of completion of the plans," Adab said.

"We, in Kurdistan have all the infrastructure facilities for major industrial units. Due attention should be paid for the uplifting of the comparatively backward province of Kurdistan," Adab said.

He said, Kurdistan has the best stones, bauxite and so many other raw materials, and can be transferred into an advanced industrial province.

Adab was a guest at lunch hosted by IRAN NEWS Managing Director M. Soltanifar.



Tudjman Says Foreign Circles Trying to Destabilize Croatia

ZAGREB, CROATIA (AFP) - Croatian President Franjo Tudjman told his ruling party yesterday that foreign circles were trying to destabilize Croatia, HINA news agency reported.

It said that Tudjman made the opening speech at a general committee meeting in Zagreb of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), which he heads.

"He especially warned against the attempts of foreign circles who are trying to destabilize the HDZ, and hence Croatia," HINA said in a brief report.

Tens of thousands demonstrated in Zagreb last month to protest the authorities' attempt to close down the hugely popular independent radio station Radio 101.

The international community came out in support of the radio, with the U.S. State Department and the United Nations among those which expressed concern at the

move. The authorities later backed down and the radio is still broadcasting.

According to Croatian radio, the HDZ meeting was to discuss foreign policy and local and parliamentary elections.

An independent newspaper said Wednesday that the meeting would be marked by infighting between factions to decide who would become the president's designated successor.

The weekly, Globus, said the succession had become an issue after Tudjman's hospitalization in Washington last month, officially for an ulcer and swollen lymph glands, but according to U.S. press reports, for cancer.

The HDZ is split between a hard-line nationalist faction, led by Defense Minister Gojko Susak, and liberal technocrats such as Foreign Minister Mate Granic and Prime Minister Zlatko Matas.

Burmese Police Crush Sit Down Demonstration

RANGOON, BURMA (AFP) - A tense air hung over Rangoon yesterday after riot police and troops crushed the most defiant student protest seen in Burma since the ruling junta took power in 1988.

A total of 264 people were arrested when police broke up the protest, which began Friday afternoon but continued long into the night, senior intelligence officer Hla Min told AFP yesterday.

Up to 1,000 students took part in the protest, singing songs and chanting slogans, circled by riot police and troops, although the number of participants dropped off steadily after midnight.

Eventually, police closed in on a group of 150 students sitting in a circle and blasted them with fire hoses before taking them away from where they had been blocking traffic at a busy intersection.

Meanwhile, about 150 riot police with batons and shields charged another contingent of about 100 demonstrators nearby who had fashioned clubs from crates and old furniture in an effort to combat any attack.

As the first wave of police chased the fleeing demonstrators a second wave arrived on their tail.

An AFP reporter watched the police action from a first floor balcony overlooking the crossroads until a sudden hail of stones hurled by police forced onlookers to take cover.

The seated students, who had offered no resistance, were bundled into three trucks and taken away, while the 100 protesters on the fringes fled from the police charge. It was not immediately clear if they had also been picked up.

Four African Leaders Open Talks to Quell Bangui Mutiny

BANGUI, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (AFP) - Four African heads of state opened talks yesterday to try to negotiate an end to an army mutiny in the Central African Republic - the third this year - that government and French troops have so far failed to quash.

The four, presidents Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, Omar Bongo of Gabon, Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali and Idriss Deby of Chad, started consultations after a welcome speech by Central African President Ange-Felix Patasse, who called their presence here a sign of solidarity and witness to "how much the new Africa clings to nascent democracy."

They were to meet with both officials and rebels, though the time and place had not yet been set for the meetings with the rebels.

A spokesman for the rebels, Sergeant Donatien Ronossio, said Friday the mutineers would "listen to what they (the four presidents)

Muslim Attacked by Serb Police Dies After Months in Coma

TUZLA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (AFP) - A Muslim refugee attacked by Serb police when he tried to return to his home earlier this year has died after spending four months in a coma, a Bosnian paper said yesterday.

Muradif Alic, born in 1937, was among a group of refugees who were attacked by Serb police when they tried to return to the abandoned village of Mahala in August.

The village is in Serb-held territory just inside the former frontline in northeast Bosnia.

Logjam Broken in Race for U.N. Secretary-General

UNITED NATIONS (REUTERS) - Four African candidates were nominated on Friday for the post of U.N. secretary-general, thereby breaking a deadlock after Boutros Boutros-Ghali temporarily put aside his bid for re-election.

Italian Ambassador Paolo Fulci said the nominees were:

- Kofi Annan of Ghana, the U.N. undersecretary-general for peacekeeping, who has held a variety of top-level U.N. posts.

- Ahmedou Ould Abdallah of Mauritania, the former U.N. special representative for Burundi who is co-chairman of the Global Coalition for Africa Group in

Washington.

- Hamid Algabid of Niger, the secretary-general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

- Amara Essy of the Ivory Coast, its foreign minister and the U.N. General Assembly president in 1994-95, who recently brokered a peace agreement ending five years of civil war in Sierra Leone.

The council will decide on Monday when they will take an informal poll to see how much support the candidates have.

The move by the African states means the council could begin voting on candidates next week, a pro-

cedure that could either result in a decision or turn into a bitter fight with vetoes against each nominee.

By then diplomats said other names would probably emerge, including Salim A. Salim of Tanzania, the secretary-general of the Organization of Africa Unity, and possibly Olara Otunnu, the president of the New York-based International Peace Academy, as well as Senegal's Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse, said to be in New York for the purpose.

Also mentioned as possible candidate was Wally N'Dow of Gambia, an assistant secretary-

general in charge of the Center for Human Settlements in Nairobi.

All four names were put in letters to Fulci, who met ambassadors from the four nations involved as well as Jerome Mendouze, Cameroon's ambassador to the United States. Cameroon holds the presidency of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Both Senegal and Gambia this year sponsored General Assembly resolution backing U.N. membership for Taiwan, making them liable to a veto from China, which considers Taiwan a renegade province. Boutros-Ghali's five-year term expires on Dec. 31.

Violence Erupts as Indian Politician Jailed on Corruption Charges

MADRAS, INDIA (AFP) - A high-profile Indian movie actress-turned-politician was jailed here yesterday on charges corruption, sparking sporadic violence and widespread protests.

Jayalitha Jayaram, a former chief minister of the southern state of Tamil Nadu, was ordered to be held in Madras central jail until she appears in court on December 21.

Jayalitha, dubbed by critics as India's Imelda Marcos, was arrested earlier yesterday at her heavily-guarded house here on charges of involvement in a \$2.4 million fraud.

The 48-year-old politician was driven in a police van to the police commissioner's office and later to

the home of principal sessions Judge A. Ramamurthy, who ordered she be held in prison.

The news of her arrest and jailing spread like wildfire across Tamil Nadu, a coastal state of 55 million people, triggering sporadic violence and widespread protests by her supporters.

More than 400 members of Jayalitha's ethnic-Tamil Aiyadmk Party were arrested as they took to the streets of major towns to denounce her arrest, domestic news agencies said.

Aiyadmk activists squatted on a busy road in the temple town of Madurai, disrupting traffic. A state-run bus was set on fire at Valayankulam town, and several buses were stoned elsewhere.

At Karur, her constituency, Jayalitha supporters threw rocks at passing vehicles and set up road blocks, paralyzing traffic. Many shops closed down amid tension in Madras, the state capital.

Kashmir Shoot-out Kills Five Indian Soldiers, Six Muslim Guerrillas

SRINAGAR, INDIA (AFP) - Five Indian soldiers and six Islamic mercenaries were killed early yesterday in a fierce shoot-out in the Himalayan state of Kashmir, police said.

An army major, C.S. Misra, and a soldier were killed instantly when a large number of Muslim militants opened fire at troops who were laying siege to two villages in the northern state's Badgam district.

The four-hour firefight also claimed six guerrillas, the police said. Three other soldiers who suffered injuries later succumbed to their wounds in the hospital.

A police spokesman here identified the dead guerrillas as belonging to the pro-Pakistan Lashkar-i-Toiba (Sacred Contingents) Group, which comprises mercenaries from the Islamic

world.

The army reportedly launched a massive search operation in the twin villages of Berwa and Ratsan after a tip-off about the presence of the foreign guerrillas.

Police sources said residents of the two villages came out of their homes shouting anti-India slogans after the gunbattle.

More than 15,000 people have died in a bloody Muslim militant campaign to end Indian rule over Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state.

Hundreds of Islamic mercenaries are said by New Delhi to be active in the Kashmir Valley. Many of them are veterans of the anti-Soviet Afghan War.

India accuses Pakistan, which also lays claim to Kashmir, of arming and training the guerrillas. Islamabad denies the charge.

Bhutto's Detained Husband Will Not Contest Elections

KARACHI, PAKISTAN (AFP) - Asif Ali Zardari, jailed husband of deposed Premier Benazir Bhutto, has decided not to contest the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Pakistan, his party said yesterday.

"As Asif Ali Zardari has been placed under illegal detention with a view to hindering his political activities he has decided not to contest the elections," the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) said in a

statement.

Zardari was detained on November 5 after Bhutto's dismissal by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari for alleged corruption and misuse by her government.

The president simultaneously dissolved the National Assembly, setting new elections for February 3.

Zardari, elected to the National Assembly in the 1993 election from his home province of Sindh, served as minister for investment in Bhutto's Cabinet.

The announcement that Zardari would not stand in the election came as Bhutto prepares to visit her hometown Larkana on Monday for the first time after her sacking.

Political observers said Zardari's decision was linked to an unfavorable political climate in Sindh following the killing of Bhutto's estranged brother Murtaza in a police shoot-out in Karachi on September 20.

FBI Enters Probe of Democrat Funds

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. (AFP) - The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has joined the Justice Department Task Force probing questionable campaign contributions to the Democratic Party, according to a report yesterday.

The Washington Post, citing unnamed officials, said an unspecified number of FBI agents began working with the task force this week.

The FBI involvement is in its earliest stages and it has yet to be determined when the agents will

begin their investigations and who their targets will be, the paper said.

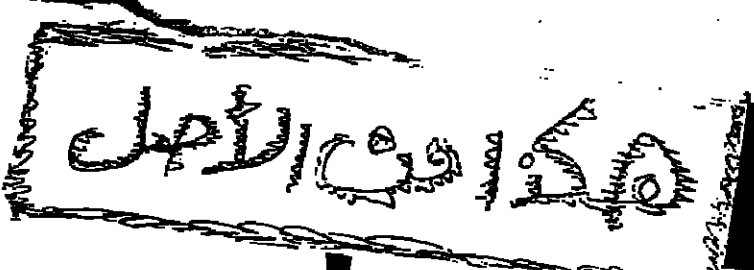
The Justice Department rejected congressional pressure for the appointment of an independent counsel to look into the Democrats' fund-raising activities.

The allegations against the Democratic National Committee arose in August during the presidential campaign. So far the group has returned some \$1.5 million in donations it claims were made by foreign companies and nationals.



BEIRUT, LEBANON: Sheikh Hamed Shahrfari, general manager of "Computer Research Center of Islamic Sciences", a private Iranian company based in Qom, northern Iran, presents a compact laser disc able to understand all the words of the Quran, Islam's holy book, and to translate them into Persian and English, during the inauguration of the 40th Arab Book Fair late Dec. 6 at the Iranian stand of the fair, in Beirut. 167 publishing houses (144 Lebanese and 23 from other countries) take part in the exhibition next to governmental and international organizations.

(AFP Photo)

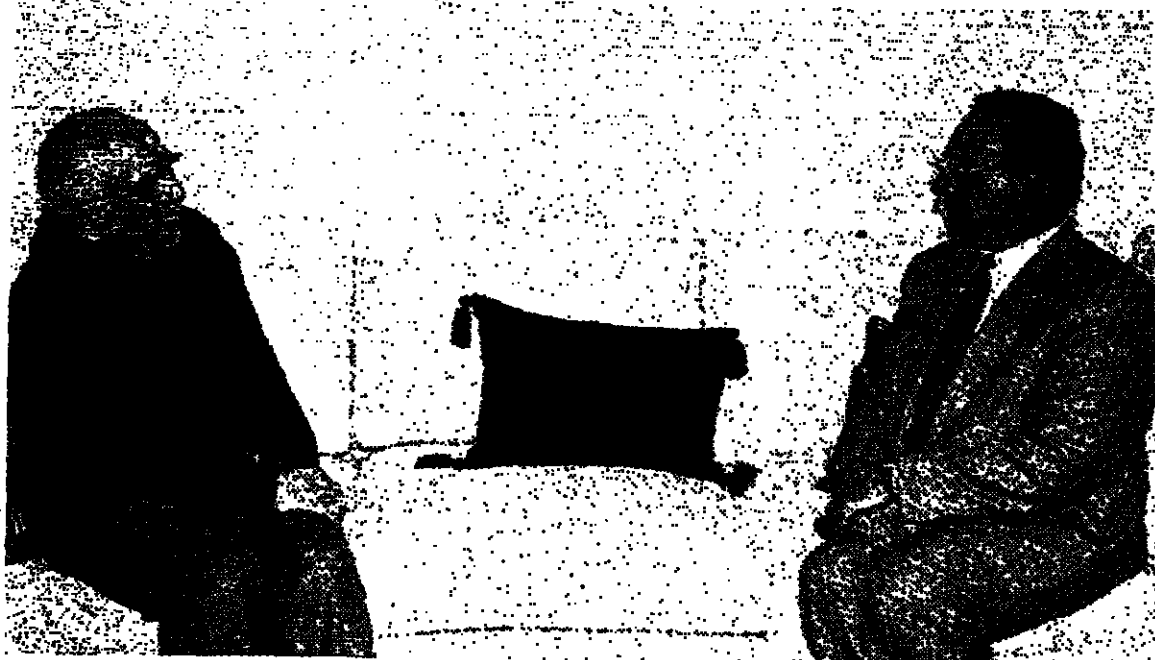


IRAN
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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AMMAN, JORDAN: King Hussein of Jordan (L) meets with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Said as-Sahaf Dec. 6 in Amman. Said as-Sahaf arrived in Amman earlier in the afternoon en route for Jakarta, where a ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference opens Dec. 9.

(AFP Photo)

90-Year-Old Woman Dies from E-Coli Food Poisoning

TEESSIDE, BRITAIN (AFP) - A 92-year-old woman has died from E.Coli food poisoning, but her case is unconnected with the outbreak which has killed eight people in Scotland, Teesside health authorities said yesterday.

Janet Murray died Thursday in a hospital in this city in northeast England. An elderly man is being treated for the same infection in another hospital.

More than 300 people have presented symptoms of E.Coli food poisoning in Scotland, where the outbreak has been traced to a family butcher's shop in Wishaw, near Glasgow, specializing in cooked meat pies.

Presidential Parliamentary Vote Open in Ghana

ACCRA, GHANA (AFP) - Presidential and parliamentary polls opened smoothly early yesterday in Ghana. Ghanaians began queuing at polling stations around 4:00 a.m. (04:00 GMT) three hours before the official opening time.

Voting began on time in the half-dozen polling stations visited by AFP in the hour after polling stations opened.

In the area around the central town of Kumasi, where several incidents of election-related violence have occurred in the last 10 days, voters were peaceful and orderly, AFP contacts there reported.

Middle East to Overshadow Trade Issues at Islamic Meet

JAKARTA, INDONESIA (AFP) - The Asian hosts of an Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting which opens here Monday may find the deadlocked Middle East peace process dominates the session, analysts said.

Jakarta has made it clear it wants trade issues to take top billing at the five-day meeting of foreign ministers and senior delegates from 53 member nations.

"The OIC has been too involved in political issues," Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told the nation's Parliament recently.

"Without ignoring or neglecting the burning political issues of the day the OIC ought to spend

more time and should focus its attention more intensively on economic cooperation," Alatas said.

But Juwono Sudarsono, the vice governor of the National Defense Institute, told AFP that although Indonesia and Malaysia would seek to be "models of modernizing Islam" through economic development, it would be hard for other states to relegate Middle East peace to secondary status.

"If you go for a second track program like economic development the danger is that the Arab world may feel that support for the Palestine cause will diminish," Sudarsono said.

Japan Mudslide Claims Seven

TOKYO, JAPAN (AFP) - Seven bodies had been found and another seven people were missing as rescuers searched into a second freezing night after mudslides buried two construction sites in central Japan, police said yesterday.

One body swept away by the wave of mud, sand and rock was found 800 meters (2,640 feet) from where the person had been working, a police spokesman said.

Rescuers were forced to move cautiously as minor slides repeatedly brought their search to a halt, he said. Operations were suspended for nearly two hours at one stage because of fears of another slip.

U.S. Internet Gang Site a Hoax

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. (AFP) - A white teen from a Michigan suburb has been exposed as the creator of an Internet site that was supposedly run by vicious Black gang members.

Gang specialists thought they had found a new gathering place for street gangs with a home page on the World Wide Web computer system supposedly set up by a Detroit, Michigan, gang called Glock.

The page carried inflammatory street slang and calls for violence and destruction, leading some gang police to predict a nationwide network of franchise gangs would spring up.

Zaire Rebels Advance Amid Refugee Numbers Dispute

BUTEMBO, ZAIRE (Dispatches) - Rebels pressed their offensive in eastern Zaire as aid agencies and Western powers argued yesterday over the number of Rwandan refugees still missing because of the fighting.

The Zairean rebels said on Friday they would move towards the large town of Bunia yesterday and their volatile tribal allies, the Mai-Mai, were already moving up from Beni, 140 km (85 miles) to the southwest.

Aid sources said bunia was still held by the Zairean army, which had received air-borne reinforcements from Kisangani, largest city in the region. The rebels earlier claimed to have taken bunia last Tuesday.

The Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) fighters now control much of eastern Zaire after capturing the towns of Uvira, Kamanyola, Bukavu, Goma, Butembo and Beni.

Lieutenant-General Maurice Baril, Canadian commander of a multinational force to help Rwandan refugees and displaced Zaire-

ans arrived in Rwanda from Nairobi en route to Zaire.

Baril told reporters in Kigali before heading to talks with aid agencies in the Rwandan border town of Gisenyi he would visit rebel-held eastern Zaire on Sunday for more information.

Canadian Defense Minister Doug Young said on Friday 700,000 refugees had returned to Rwanda from Zaire, the highest estimate since rebellion broke out in Zaire in October.

Meanwhile, according to a report from Uganda, at least 3,000 Zairean soldiers have joined up with the Zairean-based Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels after being routed by other rebels inside Zaire, Ugandan security sources said here.

The sources said overnight Friday the Zairean soldiers had recently been chased from their bases in Beni, 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of the Ugandan border, by the Zairean Banyamulenge Tutsi rebels, who have been battling with Zairean forces for the control of eastern Zaire.

U.S. Commander in Portugal Fired for Sexual Harassment

LISBON, PORTUGAL (AFP) - The commander of the U.S. air base at Lajes, on the Azores Islands in the Atlantic, was dismissed on charges of sexual harassment, the Portuguese daily Diario de Noticias reported yesterday.

The Pentagon had confirmed the dismissal of Colonel Malcolm Reeves, who was in charge of the Lajes base on the Portuguese archipelago for the last year-and-a-half, shortly after it was announced at the base Friday but never said why he was let go.

The daily said only that a disciplinary hearing was held Friday, but gave no details.

It quoted an official Portuguese military source who said Reeves' dismissal was "an internal U.S. affair" and had "nothing to do with his relations with Portuguese air force or with the civilian population."

According to the paper, Reeves had trouble integrating into the chain of command in the Azores air zone, whose overall commander is a Portuguese brigadier general.

The World at a Glance



BELFAST, N. IRELAND -- A woman was charged with terrorist offenses here Friday following the discovery of three mortal bombs in a house in west Belfast earlier this week, police said.

CAPE TOWN, S. AFRICA -- Three children and a pregnant woman died and seven people were missing yesterday after a fire gutted a two-story block of flats in Woodstock suburb here, police said.

MADRAS, INDIA -- A cyclone that had threatened to devastate India's southern coast fizzled out early yesterday after killing a motorist who was crushed by a falling tree, officials said.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA -- Two retired generals who played key roles in the October 1993 parliamentary revolt against President Boris Yeltsin joined hundreds of flag-waving Communists and nationalists in an anti-government protest rally here yesterday.

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA, U.S.A. -- The U.S. space shuttle Columbia ended a problem-plagued mission yesterday, landing here after settling a flight duration record for the orbiter program.

BEIJING, CHINA -- Chinese dissident Zhang Zongai has been sentenced to five years in jail for "counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation" in the central city of Xi'an, his former lawyer, Zhang Jiankang, said yesterday.

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA -- An air force helicopter carrying a high-profile minister made an emergency landing in northern Sri Lanka yesterday but there were no casualties, officials said.

HAVANA, CUBA -- Cuba pressed the United States in two days of talks on bilateral migration accords here to repatriate hijackers and other Cubans who emigrate illegally, and both sides agreed to more talks.

(DISPATCHES)

Major Under Fire from All Angles

LONDON (AFP) - Prime Minister John Major was under fire from all angles yesterday after one of the worst weeks he has endured in six years at the top and some doubt his government may not be able to make it until elections due by May.

The resignation Friday of Conservative member of parliament Sir John Gort, seeking to protect a hospital emergency ward in his district from closure, wiped out major's majority in the House of Commons.

Gort, a party backbencher, withdrew his cooperation as Major was struggling to fight back resistance by his party's Eurosceptics and amid a nearly 37-point lead of the opposition Labor Party in opinion polls.

Gort's withdrawal of support

for the government prompted the financial times into saying that "mutiny puts government's survival until may in doubt."

"It no longer seems quite so certain that Mr Major will be able to go to the country at the time of his choosing next May," the latest date elections can be held, the paper added.

Some papers would not rule out yesterday that elections could be held in February or March.

With only 322 seats left in the Commons, Major's Conservative Party now is in a tie with all opposition parties put together and, more than ever, needs the support of nine Northern Ireland Unionist members of parliament to survive.

Technically, the Unionists are counted as members of the opposi-

tion but they have generally voted with the Conservatives. However the Unionist leader regularly reminds the Conservatives that their support cannot be taken for granted.

Two other Tories, Hugh Dykes, for the same reasons as Gort, and Terry Dicks, a Eurosceptic, have also threatened they may no longer vote as advised.

Major's troubles may worsen Thursday if Labor wins next by-elections, as is widely expected, reducing the number of Tory seats to 321, against 323 for the opposition.

In a comment on the Tories' disintegration, Labor Leader Tony Blair told the independent, "we have reached a decisive moment."

But most analysts agreed it was

unlikely that Blair would call a vote of no-confidence soon, without being assured of the support of small parties which is far from the case now.

But John Prescott, Labor's number two, warned, "You can rest assured we will take the first opportunity to get rid of this government."

Gort's announcement Friday that he was withdrawing his cooperation from the government, wound up a number of crises that wracked Major last week.

Under pressure from Eurosceptics to give up his "wait-and-see" attitude on the single currency, the prime minister was forced to deny there was a split over the issue with chancellor of the exchequer Kenneth Clarke, a Europhile.



Iran Report
Cases of
Violations
U.S. to UN
Chief

of

Formula One Brakes and Tires to Change

PARIS (AFP) - Brakes and tires will be changed for the 1997 Formula One Grand Prix season, (FIA) announced on Friday. Grooved compound tires will be used instead of slick dry weather tires and the rules on brakes will be changed enabling stopping distances to be longer. This means that drivers will have to brake earlier on approaching corners giving more skillful drivers the chance to overtake. The FIA also decided to reduce the maximum overall width of the cars to 180cm from the present 200cm to reduce cornering speeds and again assist overtaking.

IRAN NEWS

Suspected Mob Ties Endanger Leonard Comeback Fight

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Sugar Ray Leonard's scheduled comeback fight against Hector "Macho" Camacho is reportedly in jeopardy because of the promoter's suspected ties to organized crime. Leonard, 40, is scheduled to fight Camacho on February 28, but the New Jersey Casino Control Commission is being asked to ban the promoters, New Contenders Inc. of New York. New Contenders chairman Michael Blumrich is also a lawyer for scores, a dance club in New York which was raided last month by federal agents investigating a link with the Gambino crime family, USA Today newspaper reported.

Sports Highlights

NFL Innovator Pete Rozelle Dies

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Former National Football League Commissioner Pete Rozelle, whose innovative leadership sparked the League's meteoric growth, died Friday after a battle with brain cancer.

Rozelle, 70, died at his home in Rancho Santa Fe, California, about 190 kilometers (120 miles) southeast of Los Angeles.

During his three decades as commissioner, Rozelle created the Super Bowl and Monday Night Football, forged a merger with the American Football League and instituted a revolutionary plan for sharing television revenue.

The NFL grew from 12 to 28 teams before his retirement in 1989, when he was succeeded by current commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

Rozelle was elected the fourth commissioner of the NFL in 1960, replacing Bert Bell. Rozelle, then a 33-year-old executive for the Los Angeles Rams, was a compromise candidate elected on the 23rd ballot.

In 1962, the NFL signed their first national television deal with CBS, worth \$4.65 million annually.

The final television deal negotiated by Rozelle, with ABC, CBS, NBC and ESPN, was worth \$1.428 billion over three years.

Rozelle insisted that all television revenue be shared equally, convincing the owners that the financial health of teams in smaller markets was to the benefit of larger teams as well. Prior to Rozelle, teams had made their own television deals.

Rozelle also presided over the NFL's merger with the rival AFL, a marriage that gave birth to the Super Bowl.

Rozelle's final Super Bowl as commissioner, in 1989, had an estimated television audience of 110 million viewers.

Expansion franchises in New Orleans, Atlanta, Tampa Bay and Seattle were awarded in his tenure, and Rozelle also formed NFL films and NFL Properties, a licensing arm, to capitalize on the League's popularity.

O'Neal Comes Out on Top Against Old Team

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Shaquille O'Neal had 25 points, 18 rebounds, seven blocks and five steals in his first game against his former team Friday as the Los Angeles Lakers handed Orlando their third straight loss, 92-81.

The Lakers ante up \$120 million this summer to lure O'Neal away from Orlando, where he spent the first four seasons of his National Basketball Association career.

O'Neal had led the Magic to the Eastern Conference finals last season.

Gerald Wilkins scored 21 points and Brian Shaw had 17 for Orlando, who played again without injured starters Nick Anderson, Dennis Scott and all-NBA point guard Penny Hardaway.

The reunion would have been more intriguing had more of O'Neal's former teammates been healthy.

"This game would have been so hyped if we were all healthy," said Hardaway, who underwent arthroscopic knee surgery on November 17. He made the trip to Los Angeles but didn't dress. "But now, with me and Nick and Dennis out, it's going to be a totally different game."

"It wasn't really difficult," O'Neal said of facing his former team. "When it comes to business I'm the type of guy who takes care of business."

The Lakers got off to a sluggish start, but fought back to level the score 42-42 at halftime.

During the interval, O'Neal got a phone call from his step-father, who told him to loosen up.

"He told me to stop messing around, stop trying too hard and let the game come to me," O'Neal said.

The Magic went ahead 52-48 on Horace Grant's layup with 7:30 to go in the third quarter. But Orlando managed just one more field goal the rest of the period.



SPORTS

VOL. III. No. 623 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials
Sunday December 8, 1996, Azar 18, 1375. Rajab 26, 1417



MONACO: Formula One drivers Canadian Jacques Villeneuve (L) and German Michael Schumacher shake hands after receiving their second and third-placed F-1 trophies, December 6 in Monaco during the traditional prize ceremony of the International Automobile Federation (FIA).

(AFP Photo)

Elway to Miss Super Bowl

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Denver quarterback John Elway will sit out the Broncos game at Green Bay with a sore hamstring on Sunday, missing a game that many are billing a preview of Super Bowl 31.

Elway pulled his left hamstring in a game at Oakland on November 4, and strained it again in last Sunday's win over Seattle, which gave Denver the American Conference West title.

That victory also gave the Broncos home field advantage throughout the playoffs, marking only the second time since 1970 that a team has clinched home field advantage so early.

Bill Musgrave will make the first start of his six-year NFL career in place of Elway, who could be available to play off the bench.

The Packers are the only other team already assured of a playoff berth. Green Bay can clinch the NFC Central title with a win Sunday or a Minnesota loss at Detroit. The Packers are battling with the San Francisco 49ers for the best record in the National Conference.

Denver is a win away from matching the team record for consecutive victories (10) and wins in a season (13), both set in 1984.

However, Sunday's game has lost most of its luster with Elway on the bench. Elway has completed 61.8 percent of his passes for 3,076 yards and 25 touch-

downs with 13 interceptions for a 90.7 quarterback rating this season.

The game matches Denver's number one offense (393.5 yards and 27 points per game) against Green Bay's second-ranked defense (266.4 yards and 14.7 points per game).

Offensively, Green Bay's Brett Favre leads the NFL in touchdown passes (31) and quarterback rating (94.5). Favre has tossed 30 or more touchdowns in each of the past three seasons.

Green bay has not lost a December home game since Mike Holmgren took over as coach in 1992. In addition, Favre is 15-1 when the temperature is 35 degrees or lower, and the weather in Green Bay should suit him Sunday.

Kittle Scores 30, Williams Adds 23
BOSTON (Reuters) - Rookie Kerry Kittles scored 30 points and Jayson Williams added 23 points and 19 rebounds to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 110-108 overtime victory over the Celtics.

Kittles also had seven rebounds, five assists, five steals and did not have a turnover. Robert Pack added 18 points and 12 assists for New Jersey.

Dino Radja had 22 points and 15 rebounds and Antoine Walker added 18 points for the Celtics, who suffered their fifth straight loss.

At Detroit, Terry Mills sank all six of his three-point attempts and finished with 23 points and Otis Thorpe added 19 as the Pistons beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 93-81.

Mills, who also dished out a nine assists, has connected on his last 12 three-pointers, one shot of the NBA record set last January by Washington's Brent Price.

Terrell Brandon had 17 points,

rating (94.5). Favre has tossed 30 or more touchdowns in each of the past three seasons.

Green bay has not lost a December home game since Mike Holmgren took over as coach in 1992. In addition, Favre is 15-1 when the temperature is 35 degrees or lower, and the weather in Green Bay should suit him Sunday.

eight assists and seven boards, while Tyrone Hill contributed 14 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland.

In Sacramento, Danny Manning scored 19 points and Wesley Person and Michael Finley added 13 apiece as the Phoenix Suns won consecutive games for the first time this season, defeating the reeling Kings 101-95.

Manning made 9-of-14 shots and keyed a 9-2 run that ended the third quarter as Phoenix opened a 71-68 lead. The Suns have won three of four after dropping the first 13 games of the season.

Mitch Richmond had 22 points and seven assists to lead the Kings, losers of seven of their last nine games.

In San Antonio, Bryant Reeves scored 29 points, including a jumper in the second quarter that ignited a 14-1 run, to lead the Vancouver Grizzlies to a 105-89 win over the Spurs.

Two Teams Share Lead at JC Penney Classic

TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA (AFP) - The duo of Pat Hurst and Scott McCarron fired a seven-under-par 64 on Friday to share the lead with Donna Andrews and Mike Hulbert after two rounds of the JC Penney Golf Classic.

Both teams were on 13-under-129 through 36 holes at the Innisbrook resort Copperhead Course. Andrews and Hulbert, who were part of a three-way tie for the lead after Thursday's opening round, combined for a five-under 66.

While Hurst was winless on the LPGA Tour this year, McCarron captured the Freeport-McDermott Classic on the U.S. PGA Tour in March. Andrews and Hulbert both were winless on their respective tours.

The four-round tournament used alternate shot play on Friday, but will return to the best-ball format Saturday. Sunday's final round again will feature alternate shot.

The tandem of reigning U.S. amateur champions Kelli Koehn and 20-year-old Tiger Woods were one shot behind the leaders with a 64 for 12-under 130.

The teams of Julie Piers and Kirk Triplett, Missie McGeorge and Joel Edwards, Dottie Pepper and Jeff Sluman and first-round, co-leaders Laura Davies and John Daly were all on 131.

150/100/100

IRAN
BUSINESS NEWS

Agip Says Caspian Pipeline Deal Signed

ROME (Reuters) - Italian oil company Agip SpA said on Friday that a deal had been signed in Moscow to build a \$1.5 billion oil pipeline linking Kazakhstan and Russia.

A company statement said the deal on the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) grouped the states of Russia, Kazakhstan and Oman and eight international oil companies.

"The project, which will take two years to complete, will allow an initial flow of oil of around 28 million tons a year from the central Asian republics to western markets," Agip said in its statement.

It said the three governments would together control 50 percent of the consortium, which the remainder distributed among the

companies, which would have rights to exploit deposits in the region served by the pipeline.

It said the pipeline would be operated by Russia's state-run Transneft oil pipeline monopoly. The statement made no mention of Transneft taking an equity stake. The companies involved are Chevron, Russia's Lukoil, Mobil and Russia's Rosneft, British Gas Plc, Agip, Oryx Energy Company and Kazakhstan's Munaigaz.

"The agreement provides for the financing of the project...to be undertaken entirely by the companies which are part of the consortium. Each company will therefore invest a sum equal to double the equity stake it holds," Agip said.

China, Cuba to Top EU-U.S. Talks

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Union agreed on Friday to make trade with China and its future membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) a top issue at an upcoming summit with the United States, a European Commission official said.

Foreign ministers, meeting in Brussels, also said they would use the summit in Washington on December 16 to reinforce the bloc's opposition to U.S. anti-Cuba legislation.

The official said the ministers had agreed that China's role in the WTO should be made part of the main discussion at the summit between U.S. President Bill Clinton, Commission President Jacques Santer and Irish Prime Minister John Bruton.

Ireland is the current EU president.

"This is the highest-level discussion we will have had on China and the WTO," the official said.

China indicated in recent meetings with EU officials that it wants to renew its WTO membership drive. The EU wants to gauge America's attitude and perhaps to forge a common approach to Beijing.

Elf Workers End Strike on Bitter Note

PARIS (Reuters) - Oil workers called off a nine-day strike at Elf Aquitaine refineries in France on Friday after accepting more pay and earlier retirement but admitting defeat in a battle to save more than 300 jobs.

Strikers at Elf's Grandpuits refinery near Paris voted to accept a pay increase of 1.5 percent after tiring of a strike which crippled the oil giant in its backyard but failing to get the firm to climb down on planned job cuts.

Their vote triggered the col-

lapse of strikes at two other plants where workers had only moments before voted to keep up the protest against France's biggest oil company.

"We can't go on by ourselves," said a union official at the Feyzin Refinery near Lyon, where workers voted by 91 percent to stay on strike before hearing the action was already crumbling.

Workers at the traditionally hard-line plant would stay out for a few days for strike pay and then go back, she said.

IEA Increases Estimate for World Oil Demand

PARIS (AFP) - The International Energy Agency on Friday said it had raised its estimate for global oil demand in the fourth quarter by 100,000 barrels per day to 73.9 million bpd, due to stronger than expected demand from the United States and Japan.

In its monthly report, the IEA said forecasts for 1997 remain unchanged at 73.7 million bpd, an increase of 1.9 million bpd or 2.7 percent over this year.

The new estimate for the fourth quarter offsets a fall in revised figures for oil use by OECD countries in the third quarter, leaving the estimate for all countries in 1996 as a whole unchanged at 71.8 million bpd, the report said.

The third quarter consumption figure for OECD countries was revised down by 200,000 bpd to 40.6 million bpd.

In November the production of crude oil in OECD countries was 26.14 million bpd, slightly up from October's 26.07 million bpd.

On November 27 in Vienna, OPEC ministers decided to extend for six months the organization's current ceiling on output at 25,033 million bpd despite the agreement permitting Iraq to re-

sume exports in the near future.

The IEA has revised its estimate of demand for OPEC oil, including stocks, upwards by 200,000 bpd to 26.2 million bpd for the fourth quarter.

Its estimate for the first quarter of next year is unchanged at 26.5 million bpd, but for 1997 as a whole, the estimate has been revised downwards by 100,000 bpd to 25.2 million bpd, in other words 900,000 bpd below OPEC's output last month.

Oil-producing nations which are not OPEC members - notably the North Sea producers and those in Latin America - are pushing increasing amounts of crude onto the market, and global supply grew from 72.6 million bpd in October to 73.9 million bpd.

The drawdown of stocks on OECD countries took the total inventory from 83 million barrels at the beginning of October to 67 million by the end of the month, the IEA said, adding that first estimates indicated an unusual drawdown of 1.1 million bpd in the United States.

Global refining capacity increased by 2.3 percent or 1.7 million bpd this year and is expected to increase by another 940,000 bpd in 1997.

India Calls for Stable Oil Prices at Energy Talks

GOA, INDIA (Reuters) - India's Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda called on Friday for stable world oil prices at a global conference between consumer and producer countries being held against a backdrop of a market nearing six-year highs.

"Producers and consumers have an equal interest in the stability of energy prices," Gowda told an audience that included ministers from 15 of 37 participating countries.

"Yet in the global market place oil prices have shown anything but a clear and predictable trend," he said at a welcoming ceremony that opened with a Hindu prayer to fire and energy.

The "fifth international energy conference" hosted by India in its tourist playground of Goa formally started on Saturday.

North Sea Brent crude approached its mid-October, post-Persian Gulf war high of U.S.\$25.06 a barrel this week, about \$8 higher than the last consumer-producer meeting in Venezuela in 1995.

The call for price stability has become a mantra during the four previous consumer-producer meetings, initiated in the wake of the 1990-1991 Persian Gulf war oil price scare.



DEVE GOWDA

"We need stability, and to remain stable we need to create a suitable climate for investment," Venezuelan Energy Minister Erwin Arietta said in an opening address.

But the forum exerts little influence over the market and discussions center on other macro-energy issues including investment requirements, technology, alternative energy sources and the environment.

Norway's Energy Minister Grete Faremo floated an idea that the gatherings could evolve into a

global energy policy setting forum along the lines of the World Trade Organization.

"We can use this producer-consumer dialogue to put energy on the political agenda," she said.

The world's major industrialized energy importers for the most part have shrugged off this year's sharp rise in crude oil prices, which are nearing their highest levels since the Persian Gulf war.

Inflationary pressures so far have not been triggered. But if prices don't deflate, that could change.

For emerging countries with large energy deficits, like India, the price issue is already becoming increasingly painful as import bills swell.

But while consumers are looking for stability at cheaper levels, producers want high, stable prices after seeing real oil values, stripping out inflation, slump in the decade from 1986.

OPEC producers, represented in Goa by six ministers and officials from four of its other five members, are increasingly confident that Brent prices can be sustained around \$20-\$25.

"These prices are here to stay," a senior official from a Middle East OPEC country said after arriving on Thursday.

Britain Calms Fears Over New EU Treaty Draft

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Britain backed away from a potential confrontation with its European Union partners on Friday, saying a draft EU treaty containing many provisions it opposes was acceptable at this stage.

Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, whose Conservative Party is almost fighting a civil war over Europe, said the draft treaty was even-handed.

"It seems to present the positions in a fair and comprehensive way," he told reporters at an EU foreign ministers meeting. "It is a reasonable basis for further negotiations."

The draft, written by EU president Ireland, is to be discussed by EU leaders at a summit in Dublin on December 13 and 14.

Conservative euro-skeptics, already in a furor over whether Britain should exercise its opt-out on the single currency, are expected to watch every move made at the summit by Prime Minister John Major for a sign of softening on Europe.

Rifkind said he was pleased that the draft contained no specific language on two issues that

Britain vehemently opposes - watering down a country's veto right and allowing others to integrate faster when a majority chooses to do so.

Ireland specifically left out actual treaty language on such subjects to give countries like Britain what one negotiator called "an escape clause".

"There will be no attempt to reach a conclusion in Dublin, Rifkind said, underlining that the draft treaty was designed to be a report on the state of negotiations due to end in June.

Others noted, however, that presidency texts at this stage of a treaty negotiation are usually fairly close to the end result.

The text contains a number of proposals that go directly to the heart of British euro-skeptic objections to the EU, including a call for a joint asylum and immigration policy, and a treaty chapter making employment a legal goal of the bloc.

Rifkind reiterated that Britain would veto its participation in such moves.

He said Britain had managed to get a number of its own wishes



RIFKIND

included in the main text, including on having decisions taken at the lowest appropriate level and on defense.

In other matters, Rifkind said, the report showed that London was not isolated.

"With the exception of (employment laws) where we have an opt-out, there is no area where the United Kingdom stands alone," he said.

British Airways, American Airlines Alliance Plans Suffer Setback

LONDON (AFP) - Plans by British Airways and American Airlines to create a global aviation giant suffered a serious setback Friday when London said they must give up substantial take-off and landing slots at Heathrow Airport to avoid an anti-monopoly inquiry.

But aviation industry analysts in London said that the two carriers could have fared worse, and predicted the market-sharing accord would still go ahead, provided the United States and Britain reach a deal on de-regulating air transport.

Washington insists that an "open skies" pact be worked out

before it gives the green light to BA and AA's alliance.

Trade and industry secretary Ian Lang said he would refer the link-up to the monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), unless "suitable undertakings" were given on competition.

"I wish to make it clear that competition should not be compromised by this alliance," Lang added.

Rivals of BA and AA have complained that the two carriers would hold a quasi-monopoly position in the transatlantic market.

Industry analysts estimate that the combined outfit would control 60 percent of all traffic between

the United States and Britain, and 70 percent of New York-London routes.

BA and AA announced in June that they planned to coordinate timetabling and pool revenues from their transatlantic flights from April 1997, but the deal is subject to regulatory approval from governments on both sides of the Atlantic and the European Commission.

To avoid referral to the MMC, the airlines must undertake to give up 168 take-off and landing slots at Heathrow, 90 percent of the slots brought to the alliance by American Airlines, the largest U.S. carrier.

Economic Digest

MANILA - Japanese cars continued to dominate the Philippine car market in the first 11 months of the year, with Honda retaining the top spot, according to industry data released Friday.

A total of 80,032 passenger cars were sold during the period, a 24 percent rise from a year earlier.

Car sales have accelerated as the Philippine economy has surged by about 7 percent this year following many years in the doldrums.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. cornered the lion's share, or 23 percent, of total sales with 18,347 vehicles.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., which until this year held the top slot for many years, placed second with sales of 17,589.

Mitsubishi Motors was third with 13,726, followed by Mazda Motors with 7,072.

South Korea's Kia Motors sold a total of 4,609 cars in the first 11 months, followed by Malaysia's Proton, which sold 2,447.

BEIJING - Singapore will provide the Hainan International Trust and Investment Co. a \$35 million, five-year loan for major industrial projects in the southern Chinese island province of Hainan, it was reported Friday.

It is the second such agreement with Singapore by government-backed Hainan International Trust and Investment following a \$25 million loan in December 1995. The state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

It said the Hainan-based group, established in 1988, has played a key role in drawing foreign investment to the island.

BANGKOK - Petroleum consumption in Thailand rose 10.3 percent year-on-year to 883,130 barrels a day in the first 10 months of 1996, the state-run petroleum authority of Thailand said Friday.

The numbers reflect an acceleration in both consumption and procurement. In the nine months to September, petroleum consumption had risen 10.1 percent year-on-year, while procurement had risen 19.1 percent.

The pace picked up in October. The petroleum authority said it procured an average of 1.06 million barrels a day during the first 10 months of the year, up 21.3 percent over the same period in 1995.

The petroleum authority said 74 percent of the procured oil was imported, totaling 784,520 barrels a day in the first 10 months of the year, up 24.5 percent over the same period in 1995.

Thailand's domestic oil procurement increased in October. The petroleum authority procured 274,500 barrels a day domestically in the 10 months through October, up 12.8 percent year-on-year.

BEIJING - China and the United States will finalize negotiations later in December on bilateral textile agreements which expire at year-end, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing announced Friday.

Delegations from the two countries met in Beijing from Monday through Thursday, with the next round of talks to be held in the United States, the embassy said in a statement.

"A number of issues of mutual concern were discussed in the negotiations," it said. "Discussions were productive for both sides, but much work remains to be done."

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Ginger boiled in water to

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According to the Chinese, disease occurs because of an imbalance between two principle forces

See Page 13

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ATHEW

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WORNC

AMMAND

DOMECY

Answer here :

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 'EM

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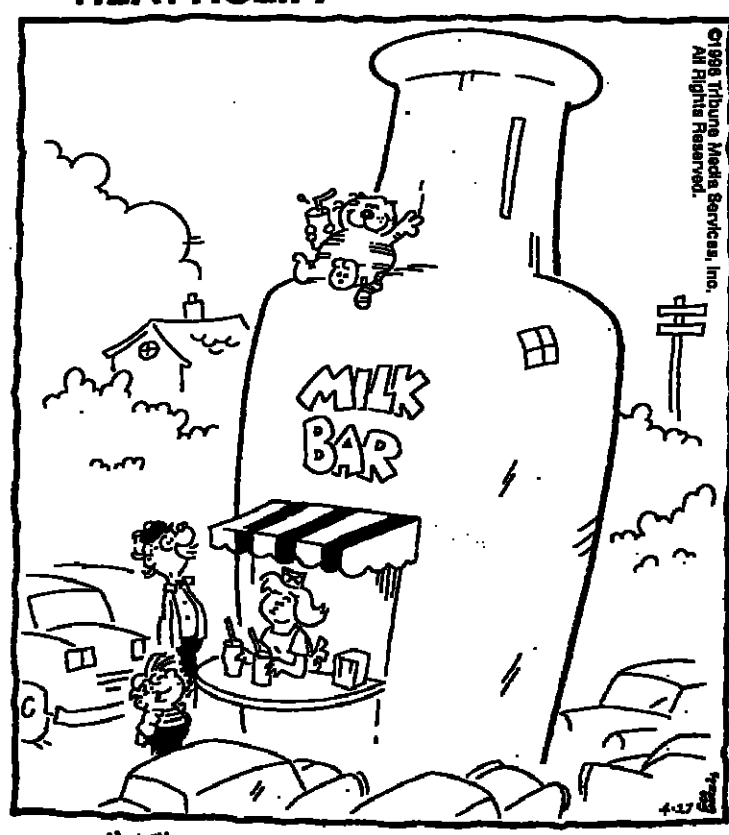
Yesterday's | Jumbles: GULCH PIKER OUTLET LETHAL
Answer: What the barber gave the tycoon's son - Hair cut

IRIS SISYRINCHIUM L.
Family: Iridaceae Modern Greek Name: Afti tou Lagou



Plant with an egg-shaped corolla enclosed in a fibrous coat. Leaves narrow, channeled, flowers blue or bluish-violet. It grows in the littoral zone or in localities at low altitudes. Flowers March-May.

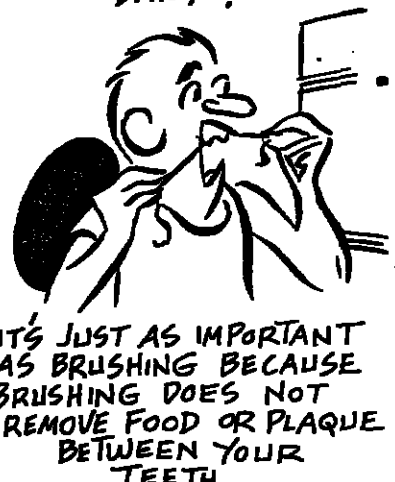
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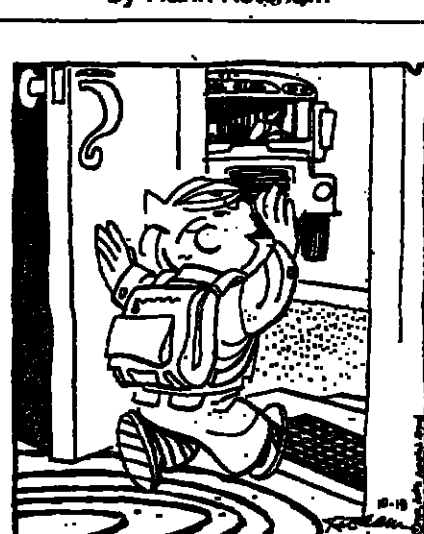
HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO
FLOSS YOUR TEETH
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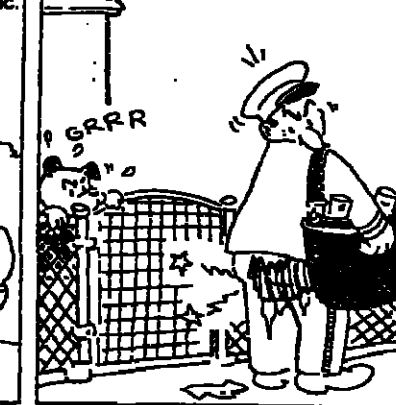
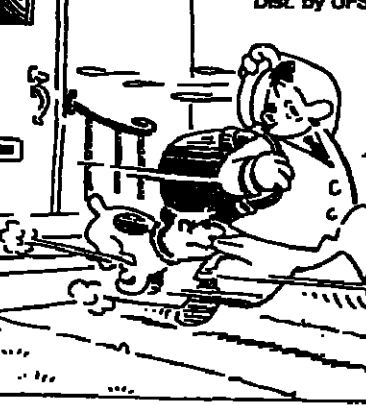
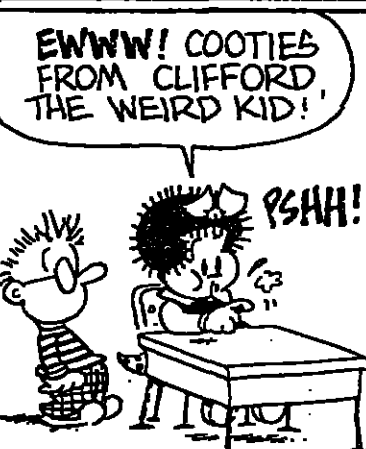
Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

DEADLY DRILLPAGE

by Hank Ketcham



"I'LL BE RIGHT HOME AFTER KINDERGARTEN
I'VE MY FIDE AND SUPPER BEHIND ME



کتاب اول

IRAN
FEATURE NEWS

Fossil Tooth Clue to Spread of Great Apes

PARIS (AFP) - A fossil tooth barely 13 millimeters (half an inch) long and dated to 18 million years ago is strong evidence that Africa's great apes developed farther afield than previously assumed, a Franco-British scientific team has reported.

The incomplete monkey tooth, an upper molar, was found near Hondekli Bay in the Namaqualand region of South Africa's western coast. British paleontologist Martin Pickford identified it as belonging to a hominoid midway between a chimpanzee and a gorilla in size, possibly related to the slightly younger East African branch of primates called Kenyapithecus. The dental fragment was located at Ryskopp Diamond Mine amid a mass of other fossil teeth from

mammals and fish jumbled up with diamonds by the sea water which 18 million years ago stood 50 meters (165 feet) higher than today.

By a freak of nature, the ancient teeth and the diamonds have the same relative density, so gem prospectors keep a sharp eye out for sharks' teeth as a sure sign that diamonds must be close by.

Pickford and his French colleague Brigitte Senut explained the significance of their discovery, which at 30 degrees south was the most southerly find of its kind yet recorded. Previously, researchers have always confined the geography of the great apes to equatorial regions lying in a 10 degree band north and south of the equator.

In recent years, similar primate fossils from the miocene epoch when manlike apes appeared have

been unearthed in Egypt and Saudi Arabia (which was joined to the African continent at that time).

Now the South African find has located such developments in evolution well to the south as well. It complements the discovery five years ago by Pickford and Senut of remains in nearby Namibia which have been classified as an Otavipithecus specimen of hominoid primate.

"Thus, we know that South Africa was not a peripheral zone and that the evolution of the great apes, some of which produced the ancestors of man, had a pan-African setting", said Pickford, a lecturer at the prestigious College of France founded here under King Francis I in 1530. Senut for her part lectures at the National Museum of Natural History.

Furthermore, they said in an interview with AFP, other animal and plant fossils associated with the newly discovered tooth

showed that today's temperate region at that time had a tropical climate. Another novelty of the find was that it was the first time a

hominoid presence had been detected practically on a seaside beach, the scientists said.

Canadian Researchers Blame Doctors for "Jumping Genes"

QUEBEC CITY (AFP) - Canadian researchers said that doctors were partly to blame for the spread of "jumping genes" which build up resistance to antibiotics.

They said they had discovered a "new genetic mechanism" which allows antibiotic resistant genes to spread, often in hospitals.

The researchers said a large part of the blame for the so-called "jumping genes" included "the improper and indiscriminate use of antibiotics and inappropriate and over-prescribing practices of some physicians." A team with Laval

University, headed by Dr. Paul Roy, "has discovered that the mechanism involves a unit of DNA, called the integron, and causes the accumulation of resistance genes against several classes of antibiotics in a single unit of expression known as an Operon ...

"The Integron is located on various plasmids and often on transposons or 'jumping genes' which further AIDS its spread."

Roy said his team was working on the reproduction of "resistance genes in vitro."

He warned: "we are running out

of antibiotics that will work against a growing number of resistant organisms."

Many of the antibiotic-resistant genes were specific to certain areas, he said.

For instance, in Argentina, a resistant strain with a new type of genetic resistance to the antibiotic known as Aminoglycoside had been identified in several hospitals and in the United States. "Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) infections are now rampant in nursing homes," the researchers warned.

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Saint Delia, Goddess in British Kitchens



LONDON (Reuters) - It is no accident that an ordinary-looking woman who times her boiled eggs by singing Ave Marias should have become Britain's goddess of the kitchen.

Delia Smith has become a multimillionaire by pandering to a deep-rooted national insecurity.

This country, after all, has traditionally had a reputation for the world's worst cuisine. For many Britons, sordid into the kitchen are an act of faith fraught with disaster.

But under Smith's motherly guidance millions of Britons are now turning out flop-free souffles,

wild mushroom risottos and all kinds of un-British dishes for friends and family.

Nothing too exotic, of course. Smith's success lies in her ability to gauge exactly how far the British public will experiment with diet - a talent that infuriates food snobs.

Oddly, in a nation where meat roasted to dry grayness and a pile of mushy vegetables has long been considered a feast, television cookery programs attract millions of viewers.

Smith is one of a clutch of television chefs but, possibly because of her no-nonsense delivery

and lack of flamboyance, her programs are not the most popular on screen.

It is on the written page where Smith stands out. Her recipe books top the bestseller lists each year and are the mainstay of many a British household.

The reason is that her recipes are not so much sources of inspiration as chemical formulae guaranteed to produce results if followed to the second and milligram. Her recipes are tested by a team of staff to ensure they are foolproof.

"If Delia says add six egg yolks and you only have five in the carton, you go out and buy another carton."

"If she says bake on a high heat for 45 minutes, you do not set the oven to low in order to watch the whole of 'pride and prejudice' uninterrupted," said one newspaper profile.

The only books of Smith's which did not sell millions were two of recipes for religious festivals. Smith is a devout Catholic who converted at the age of 22 and attends mass daily.

The two books had combined sales of only 125,000.

"The trouble is these days more people believe in Delia than believe in God," said a newspaper columnist.

So ubiquitous is 54-year-old Smith that supermarkets now prepare themselves in advance for the publication of her books after being embarrassed by scrambles for whichever foodstuff is the latest to receive her blessing.

Sales of shallots increased by 2,000 percent when she once used

them to illustrate a magazine article and when she listed liquid glucose as an ingredient for her truffle torte in 1990, British shops, wholesalers and then producers all ran out.

She has had the same effect on tins, coriander and cranberries.

It is all good news for her healthy bank balance. Smith and her husband own the in-store magazine of supermarket chain Sainsbury's. The store stocks the ingredients for Smith's recipes, while she publishes recipes using Sainsbury's products.

It is all part of a carefully-devised package, which includes Smith's own comforting, conservative image.

She has a team of dressers who help to choose the A-line skirts and woolly cardigans that are her trademark and it is said that she has suppressed publication of photographs of her younger, trendier self dressed in Mary Quant.

Surprisingly, for such an astute, intelligent woman, Smith has no academic qualifications.

She began her career as a washer-up in a restaurant and got her first break in 1969, when she went to work at a magazine where her husband was editor. She caught his attention by suggesting a menu of kipper pate, beef cooked malt and cheese cake - a very adventurous meal in Britain at that time.

But there are signs that her appeal is fading just as the reputation of British chefs is rising.

Smith has always attracted criticism from serious food writers, who abhor her lack of adventure. Recently hints that she may

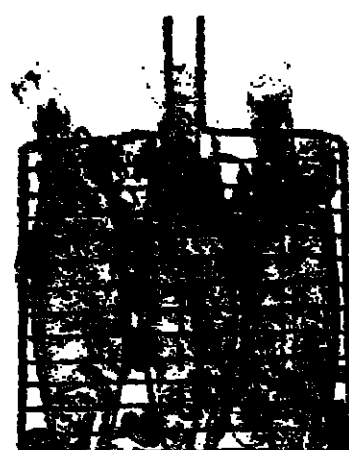
not quite merit her "Saint Delia" status have been leaking out with increasing regularity.

She is said to be a tyrannical boss who often has her staff in tears.

Her latest venture was to take a cookery stage show around Britain, but it was not a great success. Audiences were disappointed to find that Smith - who says she is not a great cook - was not doing the cookery demonstration.

Her role was to take questions from the audience afterwards. Unfortunately spontaneity is not one of Smith's strengths and audiences hoping for an evening of repartee were badly let down.

"What is your idea of a fantasy

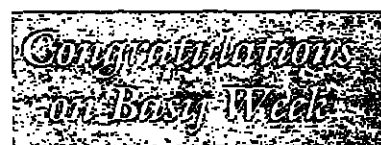


meal?" Asked one woman hoping for an insight from her idol at one of the roadshows.

After a long, painful silence Smith replied: "I have fantasies about whom I'm going to eat with, but I don't have fantasies about food."

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Second National Gathering of Islamic Association and Basijis of Technical and Soil Mechanics Laboratory in Ahwaz



Coinciding with the auspicious birth of the child of Kaaba, the ruler of the faithful Imam Ali (A.S) and the blessed Week of Basij (voluntary forces), and to guard the greatness and continuation of the line of Imam (leadership) and Velayat (guardianship) and once more covenanting with the martyrs of the eight years of 'Sacred Defense (Iran-Iraq War) and highlighting the high place of the Basijis during the sensitive era of construction, the second gathering of the Islamic Association and the Basijis of the Technical and Soil Mechanics Laboratory Co. (TSML) run by the Ministry of Roads and Transportation was held in Ahwaz on November 13, 1996.

These devoted Basijis, who were among the vanguards during the imposed war, are today gathering as the companions and experts in the domain of construction, in order to exchange technical and cultural data, strengthen the morale of Basij and elevate the quality of their works.

In this two-day gathering, the deputy minister of roads and transportation expressed his gratitude to the successful role of the company's Basij in road construction and the quality control of development plans. At the same time he paid tribute to the birth anniversary of the commander of the faithful, Ali (A.S) and the Basij Week.

Then Mr. Bazargan, one of the Basijis of TSML, asked for ever abiding by the road construction standards.

He was followed by Khuzestan Province Governor Mohammad Hussein Moqimi who encouraged the company's Basijis to be more accurate and investigative while controlling the quality of development and construction plans. "If you are not accurate, a portion of the national budget allocated for development would be wasted," he said.

Avatollah Musavi Jazayeri, the

Leader's representative and Ahwaz' Friday prayer leader spoke of the holy goals of the eight years of Sacred Defense while comparing it with international wars. "The nation of Iran and the Basijis Sacred Defense had a divine direction which is different from the motivations behind other wars. This goal has caused the Basijis to feel no loss and continue their roles in the domain of construction with a spirit of sacrifice and resistance", he said.

Hojjatolislam Saeed Agah, the director of Basij affairs at the Ministry of Roads and Transportation's TSML, emphasized on strengthening the Basijis morale in order to guard the



Mohammad Reza Barzegar, chairman of the board and managing director

Hojjatolislam Saeed Agah, director of Basij affairs, values of the Islamic Revolution. "By organizing this national gathering, we intend to keep the Basij culture alive in small communities like this company, so it will prevail throughout the society," he said while referring to the Supreme Leader of the Revolution's statement saying, "By implementing the Basij culture, the society will be safeguarded."

"We can also present a model to other organizations and bureaus for preserving the Basij culture and attracting the expert Basijis to the domain of construction", he added.



Nasser Yousefi, Islamic Association secretary

Hojjatolislam Agah mentioned the solving of the financial, welfare and legal problems of the employed Basijis as the goal for setting up the Basij Headquarters at the TSML of the Ministry of Roads and Transportation.

In the gathering, Nasser Yousefi, the secretary of the Islamic Association called the strengthening of the Basijis' morale for guarding the Islamic and revolutionary causes and values by stressing on the holding of the prayers and practicing the "Enjoining Good and Forbidding Evil" and explaining the place of the Basijis in the construction front, as the goal for holding this second gathering, while presenting a report on the ac-

tivities of the Islamic Association. He also called for the identification and training of Basijis, exchange of scientific and technical information, stressing on their moral and scientific growth, evaluating the company's overall performance viewed by the Basijis and their role in increasing the quality of laboratory work, and finally collecting and presenting suggestions for the ever greatness and growth of the company in all dimensions.

"With four technical, cultural, Basij and welfare support committees, this association has offered valuable technical and cultural services to the company", he concluded. Mohammad Reza Barzegar, the

Mr. Barzegar: If this company does not supervise the quality control of development projects, their durability would decrease and that will inflict great financial losses on the government.

managing director of the Ministry of Road and Transportation's Technical and Soil Mechanics Laboratory Co. was interviewed and the text follows.

"The Technical and Soil Mechanics Laboratory became affiliated to the Ministry of Roads and Transportation in 1971, and 13 years later by passing the company's articles of association in the Islamic Parliament turned into a 100 percent governmental company for controlling the quality of the development plans and consulting on road and soil Mechanics jobs," Mr. Barzegar said.

"A major portion of the government's and the private sector's capital has been and is invested in development affairs. If this company is not careful with the plans' quality control,

Dam in Fars Province, and Nassa, Tanguyeh and Shirin Rud dams in the Province of Kerman", he added.

"The Technical and Soil Mechanics Lab. Co. was in charge of the quality control of the executive operations of the Bafq-Bandar Abbas, Mashhad-Sarakhs railroads, and the Qazvin-Zanjan Freeway," said Mr. Barzegar.

Technical and Soil Mechanics Lab Co. has completed with success the quality control of many great projects such as the Bafq-Bandar Abbas and Mashhad-Sarakhs railroads.

"Currently the company is in charge of quality control works for the projects of the giant dam of Karkeh, Zanjan-Tabriz Freeway, and also the Kerman-Zahedan railroad," he added.

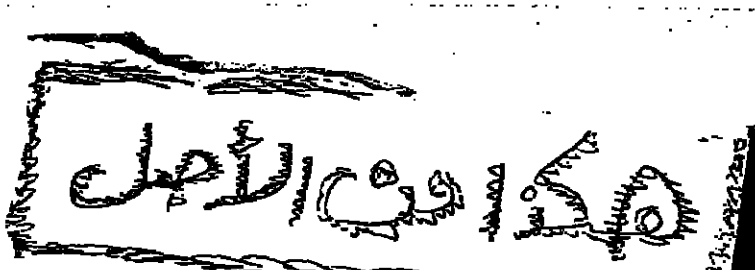
"This laboratory, based on the belief that the most important factor in controlling the quality of the development projects is the existence of the devoted and specialized forces, is attracting the devoted and expert Basijis," he added.

"There are 200 educated Basijis working for the company," he said.

"Their presence in the domain of construction like their presence in the war is essential and all organizations must take maximum advantage of these forces in the domain of construction," he said.

"The company in order to increase the scientific level of the Basijis has organized three educational courses up to the post graduate level in association with the Amir Kabir University and Employment Affairs Organization," Mr. Barzegar added.

"This gathering is trying to take effective steps concerning lab works by using the thoughts and coordinating the members," he concluded.



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FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT And Call for Paper

Asian Conference on Water And Wastewater Management

TEHRAN, I.R. IRAN, OCT. 1997

The Deputy Energy Ministry for urban water and wastewater affairs and School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences intend to jointly hold the Asian Conference on Water And Wastewater Management in Tehran in October 1997 with the aim of exchanging views and experiences among Asian countries in various fields of water and wastewater industry as well as gaining information on the latest scientific and specialized achievements.

The conference program consists of presentation of scientific papers, training workshops, short courses and exhibitions. The conference discussions will mainly focus on the following topics:

- Managerial systems in water and wastewater industry, such as:
 - Appropriate managerial patterns in Asian countries with regard to social, economic and development conditions
 - Privatization in water and wastewater industry
 - Water consumption pattern in Asian countries with regard to the endemic climate and people's lifestyle
 - Exploitation management and water resources protection
 - Project management method in water and wastewater projects
 - Demand Management
 - Public participation in managing and financing water and wastewater projects
 - Economic approaches to water and its pricing
 - Research in water and wastewater industry
- Role of communications in exchanging and transferring scientific, technical and managerial experiences among relevant organizations in Asian countries, including:
 - Role of information and communication in water and wastewater industry
 - Role of public education and dissemination of information to the public for the enhancement of public awareness and for the optimal use of water
 - Role of education and human resources development in water and wastewater industry
- Latest scientific and specialized achievements in various fields of water and wastewater industry, such as:
 - Application of modern technology for economical management of water and wastewater
 - Appropriate technology for water and wastewater industry in Asian countries
 - Water and wastewater treatment processes
 - Ways of improving drinking water quality
 - Water distribution and wastewater collection systems
 - Factors and parameters in drinking water assessment and monitoring
 - Role of measurement systems in reducing water losses
 - Disinfection methods for drinking water and wastewater treatment plant effluents
 - Problems with sludge stabilization in wastewater treatment plants
 - Removal of Nitrogen and Phosphorus from wastewater
 - Reuse of effluents

PAPERS:

Papers must be presented in the conference either in Farsi or in English. Those who take interest in participating in the conference are invited to send their max 300 (three hundred) word abstract in both Farsi and English to the conference secretariat not later than January 31, 1997. Authors will be notified of their admitted papers. The deadline for the submission of the full text of the paper, in both Farsi and English, will be June 30, 1997.

Exhibition:

Simultaneous with the conference, there will be an exhibition to display devices, equipment, laboratory tools and instruments and research achievements made in water and wastewater industry.

Workshops And Short Courses:

Workshops and short courses in scientific and applied fields will also be conducted during the conference whose topics will be announced in the next call.

Interested applicants are invited to fill out the following form and send it to the conference secretariat. Besides, phone numbers (+9821) 8864914, 8009186, 8008588 and fax numbers (+9821) 8008588, 6462267 belonging to the secretariat are at the disposal to receive views and respond questions.

Address: Secretariat of Asian Conference on Water And Wastewater Management
P.O. Box 14185 - 448 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Application Form for Participation In Asian Conference on Water And Wastewater Management

Name and Family Name:

Field of Study:

Latest Educational Degree:

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Phone No:

Fax No:

I would like to participate in the conference, and

☐ I will submit a paper

☐ I will not submit any paper

Topic of Paper:

I would also like to take part in:

☐ Exhibition

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Please mark appropriate box (es).

Fees: Applicants are requested to kindly remit a 200 U.S. dollar application fee (100 U.S. dollars for students) in favor of Tehran Province Water And Sewage Co., to the A/C No. 10000, Bank Saderat, Sanati Branch, Code No. 1480 Tehran, I.R. IRAN.

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Interview with Seifollah Dad, Chairman of Board of Directors of the Iranian Film Center

Ambitious Marketing Initiatives Planned by Iranian Film Center

A group discussion, centering on film production and export, took off when Seifollah Dad, film director and chairman of board of directors of the Iranian Film Center visited IRAN NEWS office in response to our request for an interview. The other participants at the discussion were Mohammad Soltanifar, IRAN NEWS managing director; Ranjbar, film critic and H. Saraj Zahedi, IRAN NEWS art editor. Seifollah Dad's film credits include 'Under the Rain', 'Kani Manga', and 'The Survivor' (1996, winner of the crystal Simorgh of the special jury prize). Alongside his filmmaking activities, Dad has also acted as editor of the board of writers at the Farabi Cinema Foundation and head of the Islamic Filmmaking Training Center. He was also jury member at several Fajr Int'l Film Festivals. Ed.

Saraj: As chairman of board of directors of the Iranian film center, would you tell us about the functions of the center? Since when has it been operative?

Dad: The Film Center is an association of a number of professional unions in the film industry. There are about 25 unions — such as the union of directors, cinematic production of 50 to 60 pictures.

Saraj: You mean to say that although channels for film export have been created, they are not being exploited adequately?

Dad: We believe their (Farabi Cinema Foundation's) marketing operation is not up to the mark. Our cinema deserves a much stronger marketing activity. In fact their (Farabi's) marketing activities have taken a downward trend in recent years. And this is a serious failure in view of the mounting production costs.

Soltanifar: How much does a film cost now on the average?

Dad: Production costs have more than doubled in the past 3 years. An average film now costs between 400 to 450 million rials, and we estimate that the figure will rise to over 500 million in the coming year. There are also exceptions. A certain film, which is being shot inside the country, is estimated to cost 1,500 million. We spent about \$350,000 on my latest picture, 'The Survivor', for its location shooting in Syria; we also spent an additional 400 million rials for expenses in Iran.

Soltanifar: About 2,000 million rials altogether.

Dad: Yes. This is disastrous in view of the declining trend in the box-office.

Ranjbar: 'The Survivor' was on the screens for only 17 days. In view of the film's high cost of production, what sort of policy influenced the film's short run on the screen?

Dad: There was no special policy. The film just didn't sell.

Ranjbar: It was rumored the film was objectionable because the actress were not wearing proper Islamic veils.

Dad: They were wearing no veils at all, and this had been anticipated beforehand. But that was not considered to be objectionable, and in fact the film was awarded the special jury prize at 14th Fajr International Film Festival. I should mention that in Islam there are solutions for this sort of problems. These solutions are acceptable to jurists, and we as filmmakers have to find these solutions.

Saraj: You referred to the need for active marketing for the Iranian cinema. In view of

your experience in directing a film in a foreign country, don't you think coproduction with our neighboring countries would be an effective means of gaining foothold in the regional market?

Dad: Yes, coproduction could be an effective means. Another possibility was suggested by Mohsen Makhmalbaf in a recent interview with the weekly magazine, 'Cinema'. He believes there is a cinema of the rich, mainly Hollywood, and a cinema of the poor which includes even the European cinema as well as sections of the film industry in the U.S. Makhmalbaf believes we could gain access to parts of the European cinema, if we devote parts of our local market to thoughtful European films.

Soltanifar: But do you really think we could fight the big-budget Hollywood cinema?

Dad: According to Makhmal-



baf, we can operate in the poor-cinema section.

Ranjbar: Should our marketing initiatives be guided by commercial motives or mainly by artistic considerations?

Soltanifar: It seems to me that the two aspects have reciprocal effects on one another.

Dad: That's true. My point is that in the past decade we have invested a lot to introduce our cinema to the world. Now is the time to cash in on the advantageous position that our cinema has gained.

Ranjbar: But do we have the type of films that could face foreign competition on the international market?

Dad: We are making about 60 films per year, and apart from the artistically outstanding films like 'Gabbe', there are about 5 to 6 commercially good films among the yearly crop. And although we cannot compete with Hollywood blockbusters, we have a lot of potentials, especially in the regional countries, in Africa and even in Europe.

Soltanifar: It seems to me that we have restricted our cinema to a limited range of topics, and that weakens our competitive strength. We have become specialists in family melodrama.

We need to diversify our film themes, if we wish to make a headway in world film market.

Dad: That is true in one respect. Take a film like Kiarostami's 'Under the Olive Trees'. It relates a love affair in a very refined style, without having recourse to the erotic scenes in which the western films abound. And that is why this film appeals so much to the western viewers who have had enough of erotic scenes. Still, it is not true to say that we have become specialists in this area.

Actually, I don't believe we have any limitations in terms of the story materials. The country's top leaders are quite open-minded in this connection. It is only at the lower ranks that we face exaggerated scrupulousness and pedantic hair-splitting. In view of recent changes at the ministry of culture and Islamic guidance I believe we can hope for changes in the right direction.

Saraj: What specific measures have you taken so far in connection with the marketing initiatives you want to launch through the Film Center?

Dad: We have revised the Center's bureaucratic set-up, since I took over 6 months ago. We have appointed a new managing director, Ahmad Reza

Soltanifar: Is the Film Center a government organization?

Dad: No, the Film Center is not a government organization. Members of the board of director are named through internal elections among the various professional unions affiliated to the center.

There have been attempts — by a certain department in the ministry of culture and Islamic guidance — to impose ministerial

tablished in 1988, and the current board of directors are the 5th elected body to run the Center. In the past 3 years, the Center has greatly increased its union activities.

Ranjbar: Was there such a Center before the Revolution?

Dad: I do not have any personal recollections because I was not involved in film industry at that time. But I do know that there were several unions, such as the



Chairman of board of directors of Iranian Film Center

"There is no limitation in terms of the story materials. The country's top leaders are quite open-minded in this connection. It is only at the lower ranks that we face exaggerated scrupulousness and pedantic hair-splitting."

Darvish, the film director. We have also selected two assistants: Akbar Nabavi, editor of film and video magazine for cultural affairs, and Manuchehr Shahsavari, for administrative affairs. We hope to find another assistant for the international affairs in the coming week.

Saraj: As a filmmaker you have not been very active. Any specific reason?

Dad: After I made 'Kani Manga' (1987) I was in charge of the Filmmaking Training Center for about 6 years, and although



'The White Balloon'

there were numerous opportunities for filmmaking, I preferred to carry on with my job at the training center. During that time I edited a number of films, which I could do without interrupting my photographers, etc. — all of which are members of the film center.

The center's principal duty is to create job security for people engaged in filmmaking. This is done by providing social insurance for filmmakers.

Saraj: Does the center concern itself with contractual disputes that arise between producers and actors or other people involved in filmmaking?

Dad: Yes, it does. Actually the Center has a special jury panel which examines all kinds of complaints, including libel. While the panel seeks to discourage immoral behavior on the part of people engaged in filmmaking, it also wants to make sure no baseless accusations are leveled at any person.

supervision on the Center, but the attempt failed because there was a general feeling among other departments working with the deputy minister for cinematographic affairs that the Film Center should preserve its autonomous status.

Soltanifar: How is the Center's budget arranged?

Dad: The Center's budget is provided through a 2% tax on box-office receipts. The money is included in the budget allocated to the ministry of culture and Islamic guidance. But I should point out that getting the money from the ministry has always been a hard task, although it is clearly specified that the 2% tax of ticket sales is to cover the current expenses of the Film Center.

Soltanifar: How does the Film Center enforce the rulings of its jury panel on disputes among producers and filmmakers?

Dad: We usually try to use friendly persuasion. But in cases



'Gabbe'

when that doesn't work, we use different kinds of professional levers to bear pressure on the unruly parties. But in the majority of cases the issues are resolved through friendly persuasion. At times, the ministry passes on to us cases that have been referred directly to the ministry, and this has had a great effect on bestowing the aura of official approval on the rulings of our jury.

Ranjbar: Since when has the Film Center been operative?

Dad: The Film Center was es-

tablished in 1988, and the current board of directors are the 5th elected body to run the Center. In the past 3 years, the Center has greatly increased its union activities.

Saraj: Would you say that the disputes referred to the Film Center are brought about by factors that could be removed in advance, or would they come up under any circumstances?

Dad: I would say that 70% of the disputes could be forestalled. Usually the disputes are of a financial nature, and they are caused by the use of imprecise and legally ambiguous terms in contracts. That is why we are now trying to draw up standard contract forms for specific types of jobs.

Saraj: Are you now using these forms?

Dad: No, the forms are still being studied by experts.

And since you are publishing an English-language daily, with an international group of readership I would like to mention here that the Iranian Film Center is very much interested in joining a suitable international body. We are planning to be very active in the export field. In our opinion the Farabi Cinema Foundation is more interested in showing films in world festivals than in selling them. In other words, there is no active marketing policy, and that is the area in which the Film Center is planning to be very active.

Saraj: Has anything been done yet?

Dad: We are preparing a program of action.

Saraj: Actually the Iranian cinema has had a widespread presence on the world public screens in the last couple of years. Last year 'The White Balloon' was exhibited commercially in movie theaters around the world. In London

'The Survivor'

Makhmalbaf's 'Gabbe' is now on public screens, and Kiarostami's 'And Life Goes on...' will have its U.K. premier in about a month. So how did these films reach the foreign public screens?

Dad: These films reached the public screens through festivals.

Saraj: But that seems to be the usual practice.

Festivals usually act as showcases for films, and they are often coupled with film markets.

Dad: I know that. But think of the foreign films we are seeing on TV these days. They are not all films that could have found their way to world festivals. And yet we buy them.

Saraj: But these films are produced by well-known companies. Don't you think we should begin from world festivals if we wish to become recognized?

Dad: I am not denying the importance of film festivals. But festival participation is not enough. Actually we are not present in the regional festivals, and naturally we have no share of the regional markets. And while we can only offer our best products to the European festivals and markets, we could find markets for our non-artistic but well-made films in the region. The artistic and even commercial success of exceptional films like 'Gabbe', 'Under the Olive Trees', and 'The White Balloon' is not enough for our national cinema with an artwork at the training center, and I also acted as project manager on Hatamikia's film, 'Karkhe to Rhine' which was shot in Germany. After that I directed 'The Survivor'.

Soltanifar: Did you graduate in filmmaking from the university?

Dad: No, I graduated in sociology from Shiraz University.

Saraj: What films did you make before 'Kani Manga'?

Dad: Before 'Kani Manga', I directed 'Under the Rain' which was my debut feature. Before that I had made several TV series.

Saraj: 'The Survivor' was an artistic success, but did not sell very well, like 'Kani Manga'. Why?

Dad: Local viewers did not accept it as an Iranian production. The cast were foreign and unknown to the Iranian viewers, and even the film credits were in Arabic.

Saraj: Do you have any plans to distribute the film in Arabic countries?

Dad: We are negotiating with distributors in several Arabic countries, but have not reached agreement yet.

Saraj: Do you have any plans for filmmaking in near future?

Dad: I am working on a script which I hope to shoot soon.

Soltanifar: Will it be ready for the coming Fajr Festival?

Dad: No, but I hope to enter it at 1998 Fajr Festival.

Saraj: What is it about? The war?

Dad: No, it has nothing to do with the affairs of this world. It goes beyond material existence.

Saraj: Is it a religious theme?

Dad: You'll have to wait till next year to find out.

کتابخانه

The Green District of Chaloos Is Now a Town



Moslem Hosseinzadeh, the first governor of the newly established town of Chaloos.

In a glorious ceremony on the birthday anniversary of Imam Ali (A.S.), the promotion of Chaloos to a town was officially announced.

The ceremony was attended by the deputy interior minister for politics and security, Mazandaran's governor general, the Friday prayer leaders in Noshahr and Chaloos, Noshahr and Chaloos representative in Majlis, governors and people from different walks of life.

In the ceremony, Mahdi Tabesh, the deputy interior minister

leader of Chaloos described the promotion of Chaloos to a town as an indication that the Islamic Republic works for public benefits. He also appreciated the officials' endeavors for this achievement.

While inaugurating the governor's office of Chaloos and representing Moslem Hosseinzadeh as the first governor of this town, Ali Asghar Geranmaye, the governor general of Mazandaran referred to the natural and administrative facilities of Chaloos and said, "Chaloos enjoys more advantages comparing to the other towns of Mazandaran." Mazandaran's governor gave the promise of Tehran-Chaloos Freeway as an enormous national project to be started from Chaloos.

Yadollah Taherzad, Noshahr and Chaloos representative in Majlis, said in the ceremony, "The idea of promoting Chaloos to a town came to me during the Majlis elections, when people described it as one of their great wishes. With two thousand years of historical background and being a town for 475 years, Chaloos now deserves to be officially recognized as a town. The permanent population of Chaloos is now 130,000 which reaches 1.5 or even 2 millions during high seasons."

Chaloos enjoys natural resources such as forests, agricultural pastures, mines, full rivers and facilities such as administra-



Mr. Tabesh, the deputy interior minister for security and political affairs and Mr. Geranmaye, Mazandaran's governor general inaugurate the governor's office of Chaloos.

The governor general of Mazandaran, Chaloos enjoys more advantages comparing to the other towns of Mazandaran Province.



Gholam Ali Nasir Nateri, 112, the father of martyr Keykavous Nasir Nateri: "I longed for the promotion of Chaloos to a town since my youth, as it deserves to be one."

The enormous project of Tehran-Chaloos freeway will be soon started from Chaloos.

for politics and security described Mazandaran Province as a region with unrivaled advantages of tourist attractions, agriculture, forest and fishery, and said, "The optimum utilization of such advantages requires planning and investment."

The newly established town of Chaloos is capable of accommodating huge national projects as it is located in a short distance from the capital. Our President is in favor of turning the capable districts into towns. The Noshahr representative in Majlis has been trying to do the same for this town."

Then, Hojjatolislam Hosseini Khorasani, the Friday prayer

tions, Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps' University for marine sciences, Islamic Azad University, and also three major military bases that deployed the troops from north of our country to the battle fronts during the eight years of the Sacred Defense (Iran-Iraq war)." He continued, "When I first took the office, Chaloos was in a tangible need for turning to a town that made me present an official request to the President's office and follow up the case seriously."

This drew the attention of officials to the issue. Furthermore on

June 20, 1996 in the gathering of the country's governors in Chaloos, I informed Mr. Besharati, the distinguished minister of interior, about the situation of Chaloos. Based on the agreement made in that session, the blueprint for promoting Chaloos to a town containing the capabilities of this region, was handed to the minister of interior. Of course in that meeting Hojjatolislam Hosseini Khorasani had an effective part to expedite the procedures.

Taherzad added, "Based on the relevant regulations, a region must have a minimum population

of 120,000 to be regarded as capable of turning to a town. According to the statistics of the ration coupons distributed in Chaloos, its population was more than 120,000 which was considered as an advantage for being recognized as a town. Even prior to our request from the Ministry of Interior, the general director and the experts of the Administration of Territorial Divisions, were totally aware of the capabilities and facilities of Chaloos. This resulted in the favorable decisions made by the Ministry of Interior and our distinguished President." Saying that he had gathered about a hundred sheets of documents on capabilities of Chaloos and presented them to the Ministry of Interior, he stated, "Those documents were very effective for expediting the procedures."

In 1991 and for promoting Chaloos to a town, a detailed account of Chaloos capabilities attached to a note from Hojjatolislam Hosseini Khorasani, was prepared and sent to the Ministry of Interior by some of the officials. Following this step, The Administration of Territorial Divisions was commis-

sioned to follow up the matter but as the population of Chaloos was announced 44,000 it remained under qualified and the procedures turned inactive.

Mr. Taherzad said, "The blueprint for promoting Chaloos to a town was again presented to the Cabinet by the Ministry of Interior

the people of Chaloos see a promising future ahead. The people and officials of this town have heavy responsibilities today and we must

all fulfill our obligations for construction purposes. At the end, Noshahr and Chaloos representative in Majlis congratulated



Mr. Tabesh, the deputy interior minister for politics and security; Mr. Geranmaye, Mazandaran's governor general; Mr. Bagherzadeh Mazandaran's deputy governor for political affairs at the inauguration ceremony of the governor's office of Chaloos.



Haj Heydr Aqababae whose son "Iman Aqababae" fell missing in the war, congratulates the Noshahr and Chaloos representative in Majlis.

in August 1996. Moreover in a meeting with the distinguished President, I furnished him with a letter of request for promoting Chaloos to town. After only 48 hours, the President announced his agreement to the Vice President Habibi for subsequent proceeding. Now with the promotion of Chaloos to a town and the establishment of its governor's office,

the people on the occasion and thanked the officials who tried for the achievement."

Nowadays Chaloos has a different air. With the promotion of Chaloos to a town, brightening prospects are observable in every corner and the smiles of gratitude to the officials appear on the faces of its people.

Noshahr and Chaloos representative in Majlis: The permanent population of Chaloos is now 130,000 which reaches 1.5 or even 2 million during high seasons.

The Mission to Establish a Divine System of Government

Ali Amin-Nia, Deputy Director of International Institute for Adult Education Methods

It all began when at the age of forty while Muhammad (S) was in the cave of Hira in the mountains of Tahamah, some three miles north of Mecca in a valley which turns left on the road to Arafat, where for just over two years he prayed, he was chosen by the Almighty God to become the last Prophet and he was granted the mission of propagating Islam.

The declaration or proclamation was to be made in the Name of God, the Creator. It was not for any personal benefit to the Prophet; to and to his Noble Household, in fact, there was to come bitter persecution, sorrow, and sufferings. It was the call of God for the benefit of the entire humanity.

No knowledge is withheld from man. On the contrary, through the faculties freely given to him, he acquires it in such measures as outstrip his immediate understanding, and leads him even to strive for newer and newer meanings. God teaches us new knowledge at every turn. Individuals learn more and more day by day; nations and humanity at large learn fresh knowledge at every stage. This is even more noticeable and important in the spiritual world.

All our knowledge and capacities come as gifts from God. But man, in his inordinate vanity and insolence mistakes God's gifts for his own achievements. These gifts appear in all forms and shapes such as strength, beauty, wealth, social status or power, or the more subtle gifts of knowledge such as talents in individuals, new inventions in science and technology and so forth.

The fact remains that man is not self-sufficient, either as an individual or in his collective capacity, nor has he a pivotal position with regard to himself or his environment. Should he arrogate God's gifts to himself, through the Messengers of God he is reminded, backward of his lowly physical position from a drop of animal matter, and forwards, of his responsibility and final return to God.

Even the prevalent incurable general ignorance was hardly sufficient reason for dismissing the blessing which was bestowed upon the people of the region. After all, it was never expected the religion to flourish in some backward country of scanty tribes and peasants overnight, in consequence quite a number of people who had lost all their previously held privileges on the whole had serious misgivings about any divinely inspired school of thought. Because their authority was an exclusive tyranny whose claims to authority were specious. Yet, this did not deter those who had accepted Islam from seizing power when the authority of unbelievers was collapsing all around them.

The authority of religion was inherent in the all-embracing instructions which were revealed to Muhammad (S) from time to time on different occasions as guidelines applicable in any era. The atheists denied all forms of divine guidance without being capable of proposing a substitute even if there could ever be one and despite the challenge offered within the Holy Quran. They could not do that nor could much weight be given to their arguments with regard to a family based leadership

of their little community nor in their power struggle that followed the prophetic mission of Muhammad. Although they were no more than ruthless fanatic tribe heads they saw themselves as the basis of infallibility! But their claims of earthly paradise were demonstrably false, and to sustain their guileful authority over the people they administered iron laws. Jews and Christians were not markedly different from the unbelievers or atheists in their attitudes towards Islam, the role of the last Prophet of God, the subservience of Muslims to Islam, and the need for a religious leader to guide the people. Much the same way as Jesus was totally denied by the rabbis who had created an extreme logic of a permanent religious terror at the time when he tried to practice the religion of God. Rabbis use utter ruthlessness to eliminate all who stood in their totalitarian way.

Any system, therefore, based upon securing the personal interests or whims of the rulers or heads of government rather than the satisfaction of the Almighty God, inevitably become a despotic autocracy. Even today, in all fairness, it can be asserted, as though it were surprising, that what is termed as democratic governments differ markedly from one another or from those of tribe based rules for that matter. How else could it be, given the diversity of greed of man and his enormous need for power? But the remarkable thing is not that they differ, but that they are so closely similar in the fundamental of being a man. Whether in the east or the West, there is an all-powerful head of system where the subordination of lower organs to higher is practiced; and the system has characteristically yielded a director rather than a leader whose aim is to establish the rule of God similar to what is practiced in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

There is no philosophical reason for supposing that whatever West does is right nor their governments as being perpetual; but it is clear that they are self-perpetuating and the people, theoretically, belief in them. Only the misguided if not the naive people could claim having found harmony between the theory of some man-made constitutions and the fact of the guidelines issued by the Almighty God even in the regional states where the contrast is less glaring than elsewhere. Perhaps, it could indeed be argued that the divergence between the-

ory and fact is not a bad thing after all in that it protects ordinary people from the excesses implicit in apparently well-meaning attempt to make reality fit the dream.

History is a witness that there have been some heads of government that tried to make the world they controlled fit their preconceived theories and in so doing

Islamic divinely based system of government, disregarding the monarchy and totalitarian rules in any apparently democratic systems of government half the population is unrepresented for having given its vote to losing candidates. But then in monarchies and or dictatorial one-party government, there are prolonged ministerial crises and unsatisfac-

true purpose of life. It may be logical, therefore, to reconsider the whole idea of government under this new light. However, it would be wrong, I think, to dismiss the whole idea before thoroughly examining the issue. Of course, I am aware that there have been writers, political adventurers, and those who predicted the future who have been creators of

because his true perception is somewhat clouded. His aimlessness, however, is implicit in his utter bewilderment of expansionism.

Muhammad, may God's greetings be upon him and his family, was chosen as the last prophet of God to preach and establish the unification and greatness of Islam derived from the revelations which were disclosed to him through archangel Gabriel. An international Muslim community was envisaged for Islam by all those who truly embraced this religion in its profundity. Unbelievers, the atheists, and indifferent ones, in their exaltation of war and conquest as against an Islamic equality, had a different view of the brotherhood of man. Just over fourteen hundred years ago beginning their open hostilities against Islam first as hypocrites they specifically abandoned religion entirely on the ground that this religion was not going to last long. When Ali (A.S.) was nominated as the successor of the Prophet of God to lead Muslims, they said this was a sign of living the power in the hands of the depraved. When Imam Hassan (A.S.) signed a truce with Muawiyeh knowing that the latter had made promises that he did not intend to keep, they said he could not defend his rights. When Imam Hussein (A.S.) rose against the atrocities of Yazid b. Muawiyeh and answered the call of the people of Kufeh to enjoin good and forbid the evil though they abandoned him at the very last moment, they said he was a rebel. When Imam Khomeini (R.H.) called the people of Iran to adhere to their Islamic duties, they said this was not a sign of revolution. When Iraq was encouraged and fully supported to invade Iran ferociously, they said being in turmoil Iran would surrender in three days. When Imam Khomeini passed away to return to God, they said this would be the end of Islamic Republic in Iran. When Ayatollah Khamenei was confirmed to replace him as the leader, they said this succession was cosmetic. When Iran's commercial activities expanded by the day, they said the U.S. and European alliance in an economic sanction against Iran would not buckle. When the U.S. showed signs of isolation on the part of its European allies, they blamed Iran for this disintegration. And all this because the Islamic nation of Iran refused to be subservient to any power but the Almighty God.



caused immeasurable suffering. Similarly, but on a mercifully smaller scale, attempts to make the practice of western style democracy conform the theoretical expectations which the West have had for the Muslim world in mind, were less likely to be successful and practically unworkable. Except for the Iranian

tory coalitions.

It is wise, then, to carefully distinguish between some political theories producing synthetic principles on which a state is governed and divinely inspired basic truth for serving the people, the former advocating temporary tolerance until the next head of state takes over, the latter finding the

all forms of governments labeled with a variety of terminologies, but they have done so because their vision had them fall short of their actual target of coming close to a divinely inspired system of government. The fact remains that man has always been after perfection: failing to find the right course he wanders aimlessly only

Abdosalam, the Great Muslim Scientist and Thinker

The following is the text of the message by Dr. Ali A. Salehi, minister of culture and higher education on the demise of Professor Abdosalam

Dr. Abdosalam, the well known physicist, the committed Muslim Scientist, the guardian of the Third World, departed from the world of matter and physics. His intellectual and scientific achievements and contributions to the science of physics became one of the glories of Pakistan and the international community.

Abdosalam was an excellent model of humanity and an indefatigable scientist who combined religion with the contemporary world, recognizing the participa-

tion of the Third World especially the Muslim countries in the scientific and technological developments. He greatly believed that, to achieve progress, these countries should promote their efforts to develop and qualify their skilled and educated manpower. He was deeply convinced that though the Third World's backwardness was partly due to foreign domination or colonization, yet the main reason for this gap has been the lethargy and sluggishness of the scientists and intellectuals in these countries.

Professor Abdosalam was truly confident that the existing talents and efficiency of the Third World is comparable to those of the developed nations. His confidence in the fact that scientific hegemony cannot be monopolized by a

particular community and that "the scientific thinking and its creation are the common heritage of all mankind", is worth pondering.

Abdosalam presented the following reasons for the impoverishment of science and technology in the Third World:

The first reason to be mentioned, was the lack of serious and meaningful commitment to science, whether pure or applied. The Third World's inappropriate approach or methods to deal with science and labor forms the second cause. Finally, the absence of commitment to acquire self-reliance or confidence in the field of technology.

That compassionate scholar was not only aware of the profound barriers to development,

but also fully acquainted with the means and ways of saving the deprived and oppressed nations. He believed that our political intention to benefit from science and technology is the first initiative in achieving progress. The next would be to promote more equitable distribution of scientific resources between those nations living in poverty and the rich. We should pledge our particular focus upon the education and training of the genius and gifted individuals in all branches of science to contribute to the well-being of our Third World community.

Trieste, Italy which is now bridge between the east and the west, annually brings together over 500 leading scientists from the developing countries as well as a number of eminent scholars

from the advanced countries to make use of the potentialities and opportunities provided by the U.N. in relation to Theoretical Physics. The main reason for the establishment of such a center by professor Abdosalam and his colleagues was to give a chance to the young scientists of developing countries who would, under normal circumstances, fall right into the trap of brain drain, to share their experiences.

Today, it is an honor for his companions, especially our scholars to discuss about the research projects carried out by that learned scientist concerning Particle Physics, Field Theory, High Energy, Nuclear Physics, etc. in the memory of his sustained contribution to the progress and development of human knowledge

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